



# Jubilee celebrations fit for a Queen



Photograph by  
RANDALL JOHN

ABOVE: The staff at Cefn Glas Infants School were all dressed up for their pupils' jubilee party, and it meant that the school was a riot of red, white and blue. (See page 19)



## Porthcawl man jailed for firing gun at his neighbour's window

A YOUNG woman was in a state of "complete shock" after a neighbour fired a high-powered air rifle, shattering her bedroom window as she lay asleep, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Seconds later, people in New Road, Porthcawl, saw 22-year-old Shaun Cleverdon pointing the weapon towards a group of nearby shops.

Cleverdon, of New Road, was jailed for a year after pleading guilty to charges of causing criminal damage, possessing a firearm without a certificate, and possessing it when prohibited by reason of being released from custody within the last five years.

Said Judge Neil Bidder: "That gun was potentially lethal. When intoxicated and in an aggressive mood, you fired it at the home of a neighbour."

"Clearly, the gun was fired to

### Crown Court report by AJ SICLUNA

cause damage and was used recklessly.

"Immediate custody is plainly necessary. This was utterly irresponsible and wrong behaviour."

Prosecutor John Warren said the German-made air rifle fired lead pellets and was classified as a dangerous weapon.

He said that in January 2009, Cleverdon had been sentenced to 20 months in a young offender institution for offences of wounding and having a bladed article.

At about 9.45 pm on December 18, Ms Rebecca Davies-Price was in bed when Cleverdon fired at the window.

The pellet shattered an entire pane of glass.

Cleverdon, who was opposite, was shouting abuse at people.

Police discovered that he was either intoxicated or under the influence of a substance.

In his bedroom, the police found the gun and pellets.

"He apologised, saying he was drunk and could not remember much of the incident, as he had been drinking all day, and had taken cannabis."

"The weapon, he said, had cost £50, was a gift from his father, and was used only for target practice and not for shooting livestock."

He accepted that what he had done was "reckless after being stoned". He claimed his finger might have slipped on the trigger and said he was concerned he could have hit a child.

Barrister Peter Davies said: "This was a crass act of stupidity when under the influence of drink."

He said Cleverdon did not know the weapon fell within the definition of a firearm because of its kinetic energy.

Cleverdon, said Mr Davies, had been leading an aimless existence and needed guidance.

"When lucid, he does not pose a danger."

The judge ordered the gun and ammunition be destroyed.

## County borough goes mad for the Diamond Jubilee

THERE was so much happening in the Bridgend area over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend that it was hard to keep track.

In fact, this week's GEM has Jubilee events on pages 2, 8, 9, 18, 19 and 25, as people in the area celebrated Her Majesty's 60-year reign.

What's more, there will be more next week as the reports and photographs are still coming in!

Porthcawl probably led the way, lighting two beacons on Monday (June 4) to join the chain of thousands of similar beacons the length and breadth of the land.

Organisers in Porthcawl planned events that stretched for more than a week, and these are still going on, together with other events around the county borough.

## AM'S CALL TO SAVE NURSERY

A CONSERVATIVE regional AM is calling for talks to find a way of stopping a popular nursery in Caerau from being closed.

The nursery is run by Y Bont at Caerau Community Centre, and Suzy Davies AM has taken up its case.

Y Bont needs £38,000 to run the nursery, and recent budget cuts are threatening its survival.

(See page 5 for full details.)

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# Joyous Jubilee!

## All the fun of the Jubilee as Porthcawl gets in the mood!

PORThCAWL was one town that fully embraced the spirit of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The town lit two Jubilee beacons on the Monday evening (see page 8), and there were street parties and special events spread over more than a week.

In Esplanade Avenue, bunting was everywhere as the road was closed for a street party that lasted for several hours.

There were burgers and hot dogs, games, music and party food for the children – many of whom came in fancy dress, as the photos by Malcolm Nugent show!

(See next week's GEM for more photographs of Jubilee events from around the borough).

Photographs by  
**MALCOLM NUGENT**



**RIGHT:**  
Who says face  
painting is for  
the kids?



## MP PLEDGES SUPPORT TO RNIB'S SOS CAMPAIGN

**BRIDGEND MP**  
Madeleine Moon met a group from the Royal National Institute of Blind (RNIB) at a parliamentary reception where it launched its new eye health campaign 'Save our Sight' (SOS).

timebomb of unnecessary sight loss and promote the importance of timely access to vital treatment.

Madeleine said: "I am pleased to pledge my support to RNIB's new SOS campaign to improve early diagnosis and access to treatment for my constituents."

There are around two million people in the UK with sight problems and the number of people at risk of the main causes of blindness – cataract, glaucoma, wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic eye disease – is set to increase by up to 25 per cent in the decade leading up to 2020.

However, 50 per cent of sight loss is avoidable, and RNIB's SOS campaign aims to tackle the

Steve Winyard, head of campaigns at RNIB, said: "RNIB welcomes the support of Madeleine Moon MP. Our SOS campaign aims to challenge unnecessary sight loss, to promote the importance of regular eye checks and also to highlight those areas where timely access to treatment and monitoring has saved the sight of those previously at risk of blindness."

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	09.17	9.8	21.38	9.9
08 Fri	09.58	9.5	22.22	9.6
09 Sat	10.49	9.1	23.11	9.1
10 Sun	11.33	8.6	23.53	8.6
11 Mon			12.26	8.1
12 Tues	00.51	8.2	13.13	7.9
13 Wed	01.52	7.9	14.27	7.8
14 Thur	02.59	7.8	15.33	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



# St Clare's pupils refresh the Olympic crowds for charity

Even the local constabulary needed to stop for refreshments during the Olympic Torch relay through Bryncethin.



YEAR-3 pupils from St Clare's School in Porthcawl recently set to work baking more than 100 cupcakes – in preparation for the Olympic torch relay through Bryncethin.

On the morning of the relay, they proudly set up their lemonade and cupcake stand to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to all the generosity of those who turned out to see the spectacle they raised £425, which was handed over to Jeff Coleman, the torch-

bearer through Bryncethin.

Special thanks to Mr Gwyn Jones, of Gwyn Jones Coaches Ltd, Bryncethin who allowed the girls to set up in his garden and who, along with AJ Banks Builders of Coity, generously provided all the ingredients.

The girls thoroughly

enjoyed their day, especially feeding all the local police officers who stopped by.

But their highlight was getting to meet Jeff and have their photograph taken with the Olympic torch – a day to remember for the rest of their lives.

# Bibi (10) and Megan (12) are school's two celebrities for a day!

ST John's School, Porthcawl, is 'burning with pride' over the recent successes of two pupils.

Bibiana Viazani, in year-5, already selected from hundreds as a member of the prestigious Only Kids Aloud Choir, recently competed in the 'South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians' in Cardiff.

Bibi, who is tutored by Louise Ryan, Charlotte Church's former voice coach, won the coveted 'Junior Classical Voice' for the third year running, an amazing achievement in itself.

Bibi's performance of 'Pie Jesu' by Gabriel Fauré was described as "outstanding" by adjudicator Melanie Armstead. With her partner, Bibi then went on to win the 'Junior Ensemble' category, singing 'A Gaelic Blessing'.

Bibi, of Merthyr Tydfil, has only recently celebrated her 10th birthday.

As a result of both of these successes, Bibi was then chosen to sing at a prestigious gala concert, where she won the trophy for 'Best Classical Vocal Performance'.

Through its involvement in the Olympic Get Set programme, St. John's School was able to nominate a deserving 12-year-old to carry the Olympic torch.

Last Saturday, Megan Greenwood, amidst throngs of supporters from her school, her family and the whole town, proudly carried the golden flame along part of Neath's Windsor Road.

She said: "It was a once in a lifetime experience! My hands were sweating so much, I was afraid I would drop the torch, but I didn't. It was a huge responsibility."

Megan, from Porthcawl, recalls the memorable day when she found out she had



Bibi shows off the trophies she won at the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians.



Megan enjoyed her 'day as a celebrity', participating in the Olympic Torch Relay.

been chosen.

"I was summoned to see Mrs Clint, our Headmistress, and I thought I was in trouble," she added. "I felt so privileged that I had been picked. It was a real honour."

Megan is not planning on parting with her torch as many others have done through eBay, but will be framing it for posterity.

"I'm also going to frame the special track-suit we were given."

Megan also enjoyed the feeling of being a celebrity for a day, saying: "When I got out of the bus, it felt as if I were one of the judges from the X-factor. It was great having the experience for one day, but I'm not sure I'd like the attention constantly!"

# Maesteg Air Cadets know their aircraft!



CADETS of 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps proved that they knew their aircraft in a Field Training Day against other units of 3 Welsh Wing ATC at the Wing Headquarters in Swansea.

They finished third as a team and gained a third for the best-placed cadet.

The Training Day allowed cadets to compete with other squadrons in a number of activities that are part of the Air Cadet training syllabus.

Three cadets, Sgt Alex Hart from Maesteg, Corporal Scott Mably from Nantyllyllon and Corporal David Lakin from Cymer, entered the Wing's aircraft recognition competition for cadets over 16 and were third overall.

The competition tested their knowledge of modern civilian and military aircraft from across the world. Cpl Lakin scored

the highest of the Maesteg cadets and was third in the individual competition.

Cadet Chelsea Cahill from Maesteg, who has only just enrolled in 631 Squadron, joined the boys to be part of 631's team in the first aid competition involving assessing and treating casualties in a road traffic accident and showing their competence at resuscitation.

Cpl Mably and Cpl Lakin also took part in an aero modelling competition.

Civilian Instructor John Finch, who trained the cadets for the competition, said: "I'm extremely pleased that the effort and dedication put in by our cadets in preparing for this event has been rewarded with the two third places."

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street, Maesteg on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

Cadet Chelsea Cahill in front of (LEFT to RIGHT) Corporal Scott Mably, Sgt Alex Hart and Corporal David Lakin.

# Hannah tells of her Torch day

HANNAH JARRETT, 14, pictured, carried the Olympic Torch through Margam last week.

She is from Laleston, Bridgend and was nominated by her youth club for voluntary work and fundraising.

Hannah has Type 1 diabetes and coeliac disease, and has also volunteered and raised money for Diabetes UK Cymru for several years; [http://www.diabetes.org.uk/In\\_Your\\_Area/Wales/Voluntary\\_gro\\_ups/](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/In_Your_Area/Wales/Voluntary_gro_ups/).

Hannah commented: "It was such an amaz-

RHYS ROBERTS, a pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Cymraeg Llangynwyd in Bridgend, recently took part in a TV programme on S4C to promote the Olympics and Paralympics.

There were over 100 applicants from all sports across Wales.

Rhys won the first round in Sophia Gardens from which 12 were chosen to go through into the second round which took place between Cardiff and Bridgend.

The athletes were



Rhys Roberts was selected to represent his school in 'Y Sgwad' on S4C.

scored on each event and at the end of the weekend the four athletes (two girls and two boys) with the lowest score were eliminated.

Rhys made the final eight, consisting of two teams of four, who had been competing against each other in a variety of different sports including: 60m sprint, shuttle runs, throwing, speed bounce, hurdles, long jump, kayaking, diving, trampolining, swimming, rafting, wheelchair basketball, synchronised swimming, mountain biking, rowing, abseiling, Tae Kwon Do, volleyball, football and the 100m Sprint.

Rhys is also a member of Bridgend AC.

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ing day, hearing the stories of the other torch-bearers, all the crowds of people shouting encouragement, really overwhelming.

"All my family and friends were there. I've taken the torch into school to show everyone. It's something I will treasure all my life."

# First Minister goes back in time at Oldcastle

BRIDGEND AM Carwyn Jones joined staff, pupils and guests to celebrate the centenary of Oldcastle Primary School last Friday (June 1).

Mr Jones AM enjoyed watching the school assembly where pupils dressed up and performed a presentation inspired by their favourite time and era. He then joined the children to bury a time capsule marking 100 years of Oldcastle Primary School.

Mr Jones AM said: "It is an exciting time for

children and staff to be able to celebrate a 100 year anniversary. I was very impressed by the children's performances and it was interesting to see which items were important for the children to include in the time capsule."

Acting Headteacher, Sue Prosser, said: "This is a very proud moment for our school. The children have enjoyed finding out about what life was like for Oldcastle pupils in the past and they were really keen to leave a snapshot of life today for the next generation."

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## Big Lunch organisers hail 'great success' of Diamond Jubilee link

A RECORD number of people across Bridgend county borough sat down today with their neighbours for a Big Jubilee Lunch.

Big Jubilee Lunches were hosted in various places, from lunch in a church in Pencoed to a traditional street party in Porthcawl.

The Big Jubilee Lunch director, Peter Stewart, said: "We knew that this year's Big Lunch was going to be

extra special. It has really captured the nation's imagination – not to say its love of a royal celebration."

The Lottery-funded Big Jubilee Lunch was led by the Eden Project, and its aim was to encourage neighbourhoods to come together to share lunch and a few hours of community, friendship and fun.

The organisers have announced that next year's Big Lunch will take place on Sunday, June 2, 2013.

### Jubilee spirit!

ON Saturday, June 2, Duplicate Bridge Club members, dressed in red, white and blue, played for the annual McAllister trophy and had some fun Jubilee prizes as well.

This year's winners are Pat Haworth and Terry Dolan. They had an extra prize of some Jubilee tea-cakes for scoring over 60 per cent!

The club plays at the Newton Institute on Mondays and at Avel y Mor on Thursdays and Saturdays at 7pm.

New members are welcome. Visit: [www.bridgewebs.com/porthcawl](http://www.bridgewebs.com/porthcawl).



ABOVE:  
Zoe Jones, Dave Stanley and Rachel Jones at the Esplanade Avenue street party, Porthcawl.

For more images of this event, see Malcolm Nugent's photographs on page 2.

## Primary pupils' 250-mile walk for Latch charity!



The pupils at Newton Primary School were delighted to get their hands on an Olympic torch.

PEOPLE would have been forgiven for thinking that Newton Primary School was closed on May 31, as all the staff and pupils had gone for a walk.

It was done to raise money for Latch, the children's cancer charity. Every one of the 240 pupils, the teachers, head-teacher, school secretary and caretaker were sponsored to walk a mile for this very worthwhile cause. In total, they walked more than 250 miles.

A representative from Latch called into the school to explain to the children how the money would be spent to help support children with cancer and leukaemia and their families.

She undertook the walk with the school, chatting to the children and staff as they progressed.

The charity's representative, Kay, was also an Olympic torchbearer, so the pupils had a double treat as they were able to hold a real Olympic torch.

Mrs Jan Jones, head of the Foundation Phase department, said that helping others had always been "a part of the ethos of our school, teaching pupils the importance of sharing and helping others".

The school expects to raise over £1,000, money that will be well spent supporting children in Wales. AT

## First Minister launches new sight loss service

FIRST Minister and AM for Bridgend, Carwyn Jones, visited the Princess of Wales hospital recently as part of the official launch of the hospital's Eye Clinic Liaison service.

Every day in Wales, five people start to lose their sight. Despite well documented links with social exclusion, depression and suicide, many patients leave the hospital eye clinic on the day of their diagnosis with no emotional support to help them to come to terms with their sight loss.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, RNIB Cymru has expanded its Eye Clinic Liaison service.

The service has already been running in some areas for a number of years, offering emotional support and practical help to people at the point of diagnosis, but the additional funding has enabled the charity to offer the service Wales-wide, including at the eye clinic

at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Mr Jones AM said: "It is important to provide services that are holistic and support individuals with the personal impact of their sight loss and also to support clinicians who want the best possible outcomes for service users."

In Bridgend, the service has been developed in partnership with BridgeVis, a local society for people with sight loss.

Spokesperson Julie Thomas said: "This service is something that I welcome both as chairperson of BridgeVis and on a personal level."

"When I lost my sight three and a half years ago, I experienced a severe sense of loss and had no idea where to turn for support or advice."

"I feel confident that people will not have to experience the loneliness and isolation I did upon diagnosis. The fact that they can signpost people on to a local society like BridgeVis, so they can meet people and share experiences, will help make a real difference."

## Porthcawl Mayor hands over her chain of office

HELLO EVERYBODY! The month of May is sadly nearly over, and it is sad for me, because I have now ended my Mayoral year and passed over the chain of office to my deputy Mayor, Coun Alana Davies.

I had a wonderful end to my year. Firstly, I was asked to present Diamond Jubilee medals to the pupils of Newton Primary School, which were provided through the partnership of Porthcawl Town Council and the Diamond Jubilee committee formed by Mr Lindsay Morgan.

I presented those medals to pupils of Porthcawl Comprehensive School, as they would provide them with a memory of this remarkable, unforgettable celebration for many years to come.

I was also invited to officially open the Porthcawl Lions Club May fayre, which because of the frightful weather conditions took place in All Saints Church itself, rather than in the gardens.

The fayre was a resounding success and was attended by many visitors who came to buy goods from the stalls that were provided by other organisations, as well as by the Lions Club members themselves.

There was excellent entertainment provided by Judo classes and dancers. I also judged the 'Pirates and Princesses' and 'Best Kept Pets' competitions. The president, Mrs Joan Cosson, was a charming host and escorted us around the fayre and introduced us to the various members of the club. It was an extremely enjoyable visit.

I felt very honoured to be asked to present a plaque to the owners of the Hi-Tide – Geoff Dower and Fran Dower – to thank them both for their very hard work and commitment to the town of Porthcawl.

They not only put on func-

tions for the residents of Porthcawl and many of its organisations, but also provide rooms and facilities for charities and other causes and help to raise funds. They deserved our recognition and our many thanks for their outstanding help.

I opened a new art exhibition in the Silures Art Gallery, where the paintings on display showed the wonderful talents and skills of a number of residents of Porthcawl and the local area.

Porthcawl should be extremely proud to have such an art gallery which very few towns have.

I attended a lunch with my husband held by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, in the Atlantic Hotel, in order to thank the members for making me an honorary member of the club during my Mayoral year. I thoroughly enjoyed my last visit to the club as Mayor of Porthcawl.

The Civic Fund Committee organised a quiz in the Hi-Tide in order to raise funds for my Mayoral charities.

The quiz master was Mr Andrew Collier and I am very grateful for all the hard work he put into compiling the quiz.

It was very well attended with a number of teams entering, including various organisations such as the Porthcawl Rotary Club, The Porthcawl Lions Club, and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

I am extremely grateful to all those teams who entered, and as a result of their very kind contribution the Civic Fund raised £170 towards my Mayoral charities.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Porthcawl Civic Fund committee members so very much for all the hard work they have put into organising events throughout the year to raise funds for my Mayoral charities.

Without them I would have not been able to raise these funds. They managed to raise a total of £4,002 by the end of the year.

My husband and I officially

opened the 'Song for Porthcawl' concert at Trinity Church, which was organised by Mr Lindsay Morgan and the Diamond Jubilee Committee.

Mr Barrie Wilson, their musical director, actually penned a song especially for the Porthcawl Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was fantastic and the lyrics were so meaningful with a chorus ending in the line: "Yes, today let Porthcawl shout and cheer, 'Long live our Gracious Queen'", which was sung by Porthcawl Choral Society.

It was a wonderful event which I shall always remember as my last Mayoral function before I handed over my chain of office to the new Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Alana Davies. I hope she has a very enjoyable year.

I will always remember my year as Mayor of Porthcawl. I shall never forget all the wonderful people I have met and the fantastic events and functions that I have opened and attended.

Despite my unfortunate accident, which took me away from my duties from January 1 to the end of February, I have had the most memorable honour that anyone could ever expect – to be Mayor of Porthcawl.

It is with sadness that I write my last Mayoral message to you readers and I should like to take this opportunity to thank The GEM and particularly Philip Irwin, and Keith Morgan, for their fantastic support during my Mayoral year. I could not have expected more. I am so very grateful to you all.

I hope that despite my departure that you readers will remember me for many years to come. I will remember you all for the rest of my life. Goodbye, and take great care of yourselves.

COUN BARBARA STUBBS  
Immediate past Mayor of Porthcawl

## Tabernacl concert

TABERNACL Music Society's summer concert, in aid of this year's National Eisteddfod at Llandow, promises to be a thoroughly entertaining evening of musical variety.

Making a welcome return, is soloist Sophie Gregory, a pupil at Treorchy Comprehensive School, and also taking part are the Minnesingers Male Chorus (Pontyclun).

Adding another dimension is musical ensemble Champagne Flutes, formed two years ago by four woodwind teachers.

It takes place on Sunday, June 17, at 7.30pm at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets: £10 (students £5), available from: the secretary on 07974 765578, choir members, or at the door.

## Who wants to build what and where?

Sinclair Direct – Heronston Business

Park, Bridgend – 1 illuminated fascia sign, 1 non-illuminated sign and forecourt flags.

Wales and West Housing – Coed Parc Library Site, Park Street, Bridgend – Program of works to several trees including felling and maintenance (1952) (Glam CC No 8).

Mr J Morgan – 1 Y Dderwen and 3 Y Dderwen, Llangynwyd, Maesteg – Crown reduce oak by 30 per cent and prune hawthorn and hedgerow to boundary ((1988 OBC No 03).

Aberkenfig Spiritualist Church – Pandry Road, Aberkenfig – Proposed replacement spiritualist church.

Mr and Mrs E Kansiriy – 1 Fern Street, Ogmere Vale – Bedroom and shower room ground floor extension to rear elevation.

Mr Gavin Lee Davies – 27 West End Avenue, Porthcawl – Construct carport and remove chimney stack to meet needs of disabled person.

Mrs Lorna Jenkins – 33 Newcastle Hill, Bridgend – Replace wooden back door and dining room window with double 8-pane wooden doors.

Dovey Estates Ltd – Land at Waterton Cross Roundabout, Bridgend – Proposed construction of 3 retail units.

4 self-contained apartments.

Mr Mark Waldron – The Grange, Neath Road, Maesteg – Retrospective application for garage.

Ridgenumber Limited – 8 Commercial Street, Maesteg – Change of shopfront.

Mr Clive Williams – Ty Coed y Mwstwr Isaf, Coychurch – First floor bedroom/en-suite extension, renewal of 04/739.

Sustrans Cymru – Land east of Cwrt y Mwnws, former Maesteg Washery site, Maesteg – Art installation in connection with the national cycle network.

Mr Mike Davies – 91 Morfa Street, Bridgend – Retention of raised timber decking complete with handrail and steps.

AMSS – Eagle House, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Single storey pitched roof building (workshop/store).

Mr J Rai – Mill View stores, 138 Mill View Estate, Maesteg – Double storey rear extension to store and residential unit.

Hall Hopkins and Thorne Dental – 14 Talbot Street, Maesteg – Change of use from A1 to D1 use, new shop front, bay window to first floor front elevation and first rear extension.



# Regional AM calls for talks on threat to Caerau nursery



A REGIONAL AM, Suzy Davies, is pressing for a meeting with the Welsh Government over the imminent closure of a nursery which caters for children with disabilities and additional learning needs.

The Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, went to Caerau to meet parents and staff at the nursery run by Y Bont at Caerau Community Centre.

"As soon as I heard that this nursery was under threat, I realised that this is an irreplaceable and valuable service," said Suzy.

"I was already familiar with the exceptional work done by Y Bont at their main centre in Bridgend but I wanted to know what services they provide in the Llynfi Valley and which are now to be withdrawn."

Mrs Davies was told by Theresa Jenkins, who runs the centre in Caerau, that they provide a nursery for up to nine children at a time on three days a week from 9am to 4.30pm.

Y Bont helps children or pre-school age with many different disabilities and additional needs – from six weeks to five years old.

Marged Griffiths, manager of Y Bont, was also present, and told Mrs Davies that the charity had lost a number of funding streams from the Welsh Assembly Government which meant that it no longer had the £38,000 a year which the Caerau centre costs to run.

Y Bont has been providing this service in Caerau for 14 years and the centre caters for children from all over the Maesteg area. There are 14 children on its books at present.

The AM had a chance to chat to some of the mothers who said that the service was a lifeline as it enabled them to have some respite and a chance to be supported by other parents.

"But more importantly, the message that came over to me repeatedly from these mothers was that the skilled support that staff give to their children had enabled them to make wonderful progress," she said.

"One mother, who has had four children at the nursery, said that as a result of the work done by Y Bont staff, two of her children are now in mainstream schools and are ahead of their peer groups.

"If any of these children had had to go into a special unit or special school, the

cost would be far more per child than the total cost of running this centre. It is a false economy."

Mrs Davies is to ask for a meeting with Gwenda Thomas, deputy minister for Social Services with responsibility for children's matters.

She commented: "Changes in the government schemes which previously funded the nursery has left Y Bont high and dry. I will be asking the deputy minister what other sources of funding she can come up with to overcome what I hope is an unintended consequence of these changes."

The mothers are determined to carry on supporting each other whatever happens and are setting up a support group, as well as campaigning for funding for the nursery.

The Caerau outreach is due to close on June 15. Y Bont caters for 130 children altogether at its Bridgend base.

Mrs Davies added: "I will be inviting the deputy minister to come here and see what's going on and talk to the parents. I cannot believe that out of the huge budget that the Welsh Government administers, they cannot find £38,000 to keep this going."

She has also written to the Children's Commissioner, Keith Towler, on this issue.

## Students go national in quest to become consumer champs

A TEAM of students from St Clare's School in Porthcawl, have qualified for a national competition – where they will take on some of Britain's best young consumers.

The 'Young Consumers of the Year' competition is designed to make students aware of their consumer responsibilities and rights, which will be beneficial to them upon leaving secondary education.

Year-12 pupils Emily Whittle, Ffion Lewis, and Georgia Williams, along with year-13 pupil Greg Parker, will represent Wales at the Trading Standards Institute Conference in Manchester on June 26-27, for the chance to become UK champions.

The grand final will consist of a quiz testing students on a wide range of issues including consumer and law, food and health, safety and the environment, managing money and finance, credit and the European dimension.

The team secured their position at the final after Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards department held a regional final in November 2011.

Head teacher of St Clare's, Mr John Aguilar, said: "What marks our pupils out from the rest is that they have the opportunity to grow in areas alongside the standard curriculum.

"They performed admirably and the whole school will be behind them as they prepare for the finals in June."

### FRIENDS' FETE

MAESTEG Hospital League of Friends will be holding their 50th anniversary summer fete on Wednesday, June 20 at a new venue this year – The Celtic Club, Garth, Maesteg.

On the following Friday, June 22, there will be a concert, also at the Celtic Club, featuring Maesteg Gleemen, Harmony and guests. Tickets are £4 and available from Maesteg Library, Maria's Cafe on Commercial Street, or the Hospital.

## Slimtone

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DAY	VENUE	TIME
MONDAY	OGMORE VALE Non Political Club	6.00 - 7.30 pm
TUESDAY	TONYREFAIL MAESTEG SAINSBURY'S BRIDGEND	Workmen's Club Masonic hall Customer Restaurant 10.00 - 11.00am 10.00 - 11.30am 5.30 - 7.00pm
WEDNESDAY	PYLE PONTCYMMER YNYSAWDRE	Cwrt Anghorfa Blaengarw RFC Swimming Pool 9.30 - 10.30am 6.00 - 7.30pm 5.15 - 6.15pm
THURSDAY	OGMORE VALE PORTHCAWL MAESTEG TONYREFAIL	Cwrt Gwalia All Saint's Church Hall Masonic hall Workmen's Club 9.15 - 10.15am 10.00 - 11.00am 5.30 - 7.00pm 5.30 - 7.00pm
FRIDAY	BLAENGARW BRIDGEND (Opposite Tesco Store - Quarella Road) PEN-Y-FAI	Danymynydd Lyys Faen Scout Hall 9.30 - 11.00am 10.00 - 11.30am 5.00 - 6.00pm

## 'Alison inspires work-based learners' – Bridgend College



Alison Kent (holding plaque) with Liz Plenty (left) and NVQ candidates and staff from The Rest, Porthcawl.

BRIDGEND College is "delighted" that Alison Kent was highly commended at the NIACE Inspire Learning Awards in the adult tutor, trainer and mentor category.

Alison is a National Vocation Qualification (NVQ) Assessor, working with Excelsior Plus candidates, who received her award for her excellent and inspiring NVQ delivery.

Her client list includes staff at The Rest Convalescent Hotel in Porthcawl and Gofal

Cymru in Bridgend, and she specialises in NVQs in customer service, business administration and team leading.

Alison said: "I enjoy the NVQ process, which involves meeting my candidates on a one-to-one basis and guiding them through their portfolio, building activities to achieve their qualifications.

"It is such a pleasure to have a job where I can both inspire and be inspired!"

## Hi Tide hosts a charity night

A 1940s themed fundraising event on Friday, June 15, at 7pm, in collaboration with the Bridgend Carers Centre and Trinity Care and Support is taking place at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl.

The evening includes 1940s style singers, the Bridgend Swing Band and dancers from the Bryntirion Dance Centre.

Tickets are £15 to include a fish and chip supper in paper, 1940s style!

Tickets are available from Crossroads Care 01656 784100, or via email to info@trinity-careandsupport.co.uk or via the Bridgend Carers Centre on 01656 658479.

## and still going strong

Local business woman Marie Griffiths is celebrating 30 years in business helping people get slim and be fitter and healthier following the opening of her Pontcymmer class in 1982.

"My aim was to create an atmosphere that was fun but informative. The members who came to class couldn't afford to buy special foods just for themselves. They had a whole family to feed and were often on a budget. Having a sensible healthy eating plan based on "real" food that was inexpensive and flexible encouraged them and their families to eat more healthily."

Laura James is one of hundreds of success stories.

"When I joined Slimtone in 2006," says Laura, "I was 18 years old and weighed over 20 stone. I had absolutely no confidence and very low self-esteem. I hated meeting people and wouldn't even chat to the other members of my slimming class."

"As my weight steadily dropped, my confidence increased, my health improved and my life turned around. In total I've lost a massive 10 stone 7 lbs thanks to Marie and maintained my ideal weight for several years.

Slimtone was the first ever slimming organisation in the UK to go online. Now with members all over the world, social media has become an integral part of the business. Powerful partnerships with organisations like Sainsbury's and Champneys have also helped to keep the business growing. But Slimtone remains very much a part of the local community and has contributed over £40,000 to local charities.

Plus Marie has won the prestigious Fab After Fifty Health Achievers Award for the Welsh Region and has no plans to retire.



# IT MAY BE RECESS – BUT HOME AND AWAY, IT'S A BUSY TIME!

**R**ECCESS is a hectic time, and this one has been no different. Instead of heading back to Wales when Parliament went into recess on May 24, I headed to Estonia – for a three-day meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Estonia has a population of just over one and a quarter million which for many years was under Russian control.

Despite its size, but because of its past history, they take defence very seriously.

Estonian troops are serving alongside our own forces in Afghanistan.

Estonia was the first European country in 2007 to face a cyber attack on its internet communication systems and thus has a keen interest in cyber defence.

The denial of service attack consisted of swamping use of government and banking websites so that they could not be accessed by the public.

The NATO meeting

addressed a number of issues - from cyber security and the withdrawal from Afghanistan, to the aftermath of the Arab Spring to the Euro Crisis.

The meetings were valuable, not only for the areas they addressed, but for the opportunity to look at problems from the myriad perspectives of the 28 NATO members - plus observer nations is a unique opportunity.

Back in Bridgend life remains busy, with opportunities to catch up with local innovation and concerns regarding government legislation.

Wales is to be represented by a group of six young people from Cornelly Primary at the national final of the schools Formula 1 competition in Birmingham next month. This completion gives people the opportunities to engage in research, develop communication, design and co-operation skills.

The young people from Cornelly have shown excellence in all of these areas and deserve our congratulations. I attended a presentation at Cornelly primary with the children, their teachers, (especially Mr Clark), parents,

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive column from Westminster for The Gem.**



governors and local business sponsors. This experience will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives, knowing they can achieve, excel and succeed.

Knowing you can achieve, excel and succeed is also important in changing your life path. Hay in the Parc sets out to do just that. This is the fifth year that the Hay Festival has teamed up with Parc Prison to provide a unique literature festival where prisoners have the opportunity to listen to talks and discussions from writers and authors and attend creative writing workshops.

I attended the launch of the festival at the prison and listened to music performed by, "The Residents" band and short pieces written by inmates who had taken part in creative writing classes. T

he opportunity to find a new way of exploring the past, expressing feelings and looking forward to a different future is all part of creating openings for change and a different life. I was impressed by the support from Hay, the commitment of the staff at Parc and the honesty of some of the written pieces I heard. One person talked of the shock he felt the first time he heard that he had the ability to achieve something; this had never seemed possible for him.

Opening up opportunities is also the work of Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union. This is an organisation I cannot praise and recommend

highly enough.

I am the Vice Chair of the All Party Credit Union group in Westminster and know firsthand the opportunities offered to people to escape debt, to establish a saving record and to help secure a safer financial future that credit unions offer.

Bridgend Lifesavers opened their second high street shop here in Bridgend last Friday. The Bridgend location provides competition to the high interest loan shops in the town.

Check out the difference in interest rates before you take out a loan and you will find

the credit union offers a great deal.

The Association of British Credit Unions provides a good example of the saving to be made. For a £300 loan paid back over 52 weeks from a leading home credit provider would cost £246 in interest. A similar loan from a credit union, charged at the current maximum interest rate of 2% a month on the reducing balance would cost no more than £40 in interest, representing a saving to the consumer of over £200.

We all owe a big thank you to the volunteers and staff of Bridgend Lifesavers who will save many people from the clutches of loan sharks and help many start the savings habit.

My penultimate meeting last Friday was with Victims Support to talk about the impact of government proposals for victims and witnesses. The new Police and Crime Commissions (PCC's) to be elected in

November of this year will also be responsible for the allocation of funding for support services for victims and witnesses.

In total, £50million in funding will be devolved to the 41 PCC's, but the money will not be ring fenced so could be diverted to other services, allowing a patchy service to develop across the country.

The existing 7,000 trained victim support volunteers are estimated to save the public purse £20m a year. Instead of investing in the Victim Support charity the government wants to open provision of this service to competition by private security firms, some of whom are already helping to run police functions and private prisons. Let's hope we see another U turn soon on this crazy idea.

Next week brings more meetings, but also more cake, as Jubilee events fill my diary.

## Sker WI's Jubilee fashion show



The Skerettes dressed up in British fashion from over the years in their Jubilee celebrations.

SKER WI celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, which was decorated with bunting.

Members dressed up for the occasion and

enjoyed cheese and wine. The Skerettes gave a fashion parade showing the different types of dress over the last 60 years.

Many thanks to Kay Boswell for organising a very good show. The evening was enjoyed by all.

AV

## KENFIG CADETS SHINE

**DUE to bad weather in February, the inter-wing athletics championships were postponed from February and held on May 19 and 20 at RAF Cosford.**

It was a very good day, morale was high and all cadets supported each other. No.3 Welsh Wing came away with 3 gold medals, 4 silver and 12 bronze, which is a brilliant effort, with all cadets in attendance receiving a Wing Blue.

Kenfig Hill ATC was well represented, with three cadets taking part. Cadet Olivia Norris outran the competition and came back with two gold medals – she took part in the 400 and 1500 metres and also the high jump.

Cadet Norris comes from an athletic family; her brother Cadet Corporal Jordan Norris took part in the 200 and 1500 metres.

The third cadet was Cadet Corporal Jessica Aston, who represented the Wing in the discus and shot putt.

Cadet Olivia Norris also represented the ATC national team at cross



Left to right: Cdt Cpl J Aston, Cdt Cpl J Norris and Cdt O Norris.

country in March and she is now entitled to wear the sports representative badge.

The ATC holds many sporting activities and the cadets always enjoy taking part and representing Wing; it gives them the opportunity to meet with cadets from other Squadrons outside the area.

LINDSAY THOMAS

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(SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 7)



# THE DAY OLYMPIC TORCH WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF BRIDGEND COUNTY



ABOVE: Bridgend Town Mayor Coun Roger Marsh wishes a torchbearer well just before he starts his leg of the relay at Park Street.



GE



FS

LAST week's GEM reported on the day when the Olympic Torch passed through the town.

It was a day of celebration for torchbearers and crowds alike, and local photographers were out in force to capture some of the emotionla highpoints of the day.

Photos marked 'FS' are by Frank Shipton (07790 882925). e-mail frankshipton@mac.com

Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn Evans (07791 228684). e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk



GE



Nolton Street was packed with spectators.

FS



FS

ABOVE: Heidi Morris gives the crowds in Derwen Street and Nolton Street a close look at the torch after her leg of the relay.



FS

ABOVE: Park Street is packed as the torch heads off towards Bryntirion.

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# Joyous Jubilee!

## Porthcawl lights up the night as beacons send a message!

FROM ancient times, beacons have been used to send out a message, and Porthcawl's two, at Rhych Point and Hutchwn's Point, were clearly expressing the town's high regard for the Queen.

However, a second message was: "Somerset and North Devon! Can you see us!"

Well, the reverse was true and two, or possibly three, beacons were visible from Porthcawl.

In fact, in the dramatic picture (right) taken by Malcolm Nugent at Rhych Point, a beacon across the channel is visible just left of the watchtower.

It would be nice to say that the really big glowing object (top left) was a giant Somerset bonfire. However, it turned out that it was just the moon!

All images by  
**MALCOLM NUGENT**  
(Except those marked 'PI',  
which are by Philip Irwin)



ABOVE:  
The Rhych Point  
beacon is well and  
truly ablaze.

LEFT:  
Watching the flames  
at Rhych Point.

BELOW:  
Doing the 'hokey-  
cokey' at Esplanade  
Avenue.



LEFT:  
De Londres Close  
was another  
Porthcawl road  
which was closed  
so that residents  
could enjoy a  
street party.



All set to light  
up the Jubilee!

PI



PI

ABOVE: Figures are silhouetted by the beacon at Hutchwns Point.  
LEFT: The Hutchwns Point beacon earlier in the day.



# GEM photographers are out and about as residents celebrate the Queen's Jubilee



MANY communities in Bridgend county borough held street parties to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – defying the unpredictable weather.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans visited Grove Road in Bridgend, and Woodside Close, Litchard, where the parties were in full swing.

In Grove Road (photos marked 'G') there was a fancy dress competition for the young ones, while in Woodside Close (photos marked 'W') there was a welly-throwing contest!



## Photographs by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

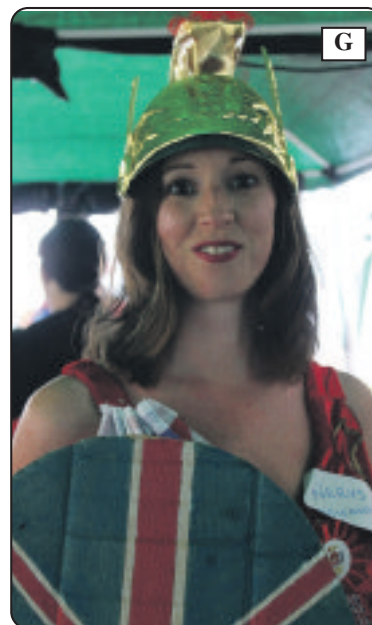
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telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



ABOVE: Woodside Close residents defying the weather..



## WHAT'S ON in brief

### TOP advice

TAX Help for Older People will hold a free advice session at Pencoed Library on Tuesday, June 26.

To book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321.

### Police Sevens tournament

THE South Wales Police RFC stages the Colin Hillman Invitation Sevens on Sunday, August 26, at Waterton Cross.

For further information on how to enter a senior team contact: 07799 636622; 07780 547974; or 07949 290198.

### Get-together

A NEW parent-toddler group has opened in Nantymoel at the Berwyn Centre for parents and children up to four every Wednesday during term time, between 1.30pm-2.45pm.

A parent and toddler group also runs in Ogmore Vale every Tuesday (10am-11.30am) at Christchurch Hall, all are welcome.

For more information contact Katherine Squire (07504 441079).

Did you know you can read your GEM online? [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)

You can also find The GEM on Facebook and follow us on Twitter - [facebook.com/gemnews](http://facebook.com/gemnews) or @gem\_news



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<b>FITTED FREE</b>  <b>50%+ 25% OFF</b> <b>ONLY £3.99</b> <small>PER SQ. MTR</small> <b>TORFIDO</b> , Hard-wearing action back Berber ideal for one room in the house. Available in 4 colours.	<b>FITTED FREE</b>  <b>OVER 70% OFF</b> <b>ONLY £4.99</b> <small>PER SQ. MTR</small> <b>RAZORBLADE</b> , Modern hard-wearing tall back loop pile Berber carpet. Available in 4 colours.	<b>FITTED FREE</b>  <b>OVER 50% OFF</b> <b>ONLY £5.97</b> <small>PER SQ. MTR</small> <b>SUPER TWIST</b> , Lustrous natural hair pile carpet. Available in 4 colours.
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# Air Cadets join Barry branch

SENIOR air cadets from 372 (Barry) Air Training Corps Squadron have been invited to join the Barry branch of the RAF Association.

Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO) Megan Hamblin and Cadet Sergeant Adam Wood were the first to sign on the dotted line and now actively take part in open branch meetings.

When the Barry branch was forced to dispose of its club facility some three years back, the branch committee searched for an alternative venue.

Barry Air Training Corps Squadron's building was an ideal location for the branch members to come together on a regular basis.

With help from the Commanding Officer of 372 Squadron, an agreement was reached with HQ Air Cadets, for a 'peppercorn rent', to hold monthly 'temperance' meetings (much to some visitors' surprise).

To form a closer bond with the Air Cadets, who have helped the branch tremendously with 'bag

packing' for Wings Appeal, the branch decided to adopt 372 (Barry) ATC Squadron and the certificate to that effect is now proudly displayed on the squadron's wall.

CWO Megan Hamblin reports regularly to the committee on the achievements of the cadets.

The stats on collecting over the years proved cadets have averaged over 80% of the money collected.

At the Squadron's annual presentation evening, the cadet collecting the most money is presented with a framed aircraft print and the 'Gwelfor Thomas' shield, honouring a founder member of 372 Squadron and Hon Welfare Officer of the branch for 29 years.

The Barry branch is proud of the efforts by the Air Cadets for their assistance over the years. With the Hon Welfare Officer receiving the Wings 20% rebate, it has meant the branch can continue to support ex RAF personnel who live locally in the Llantwit / Rhoose / Barry area.

Meg Hamblin & Adam Wood.



ABOVE: Chairman Geoff Horton welcomes CWO Megan Hamblin and Cadet Sergeant Adam Wood to the Barry RAF Association branch.

## Jubilee treat for locals!

LOCAL residents shopped at their Iceland stores and also ended up with £250-worth of Iceland food, plus all the goodies needed to host the biggest Diamond Jubilee party in town.

There were three winners from the area who entered Iceland's nationwide Jubilee competition to reward one customer from each of their stores

with enough Iceland food and goodies to stage a celebration to remember on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

They beat thousands of other hopefuls to the prize – a party pack stuffed to the brim with party food, Jubilee bunting, table cloths, crowns and loads of other Jubilee-themed goodies to make their own Jubilee party on

Sunday, June 3.

Lisa Holland won through the Barry store, Jane Jones won through the Bridgend store, and Shaney Buckley won through the Maesteg store.

Alison Laverick from Iceland said: "It's great the winners can host their own Jubilee party and invite all their friends and family to come and celebrate with them."

## Beach Boys' rare single auctioned to support Daniel

A RARE, framed and signed white vinyl Beach Boys single will be auctioned off to raise funds to help support Daniel, a local Barry boy who was born with a rare malignant tumour at the top of his spine.

The auction will form part of a special event and raffle at the Bryn Hill Golf Club in Barry on June 9 with tickets costing £5 each. All money raised will be donated to the Daniel's Cwtch Fund, which is used to provide additional care and support for Daniel, as well as support for CLIC Sargent and LATCH.

"I've known Daniel's parents for a long, long time - his dad came to my wedding," said CAVC Deputy NVQ Coordinator Lisa Taylor, who has organised the event. "As soon as the Fund was launched we

decided to do events to help the family in any way that we could."

Lisa is based at the College's Barry Waterfront site. Waterfront Co-ordinator Ceri Case arranged for the special prize. "My daughter Ellie presents a radio show in the States and when she interviewed the Beach Boys she asked them something to auction for charity," Ceri said. "It's a rare item - it was not issued for general release."

The single, Don't Fight the Sea, was issued to raise funds for victims of the March 2011 Japanese tsunami. Only 1,000 copies were produced and of those just 90 were signed by the band.

For more information, or to make a bid, contact Lisa via: lisa@taylor-site.co.uk

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## WHAT'S ON / in brief

**Ladies choir**  
A ladies choral group, Allegro, has been launched in Penarth to sing popular standards and songs from major musicals in three part harmony.

The musical director, Ray Dibble, has over 40 years' experience in staging major productions both in Penarth and at St. David's Hall in Cardiff.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, at Albert Road Community Centre in Penarth.

There are vacancies in all sections. Telephone 029 20217681 or e-mail ray.dibblembe@gmail.com

**PACT meetings**  
**BARUC PACT, June 14 at Barry**

**Island Community Hall, Friars Road at 6.45pm.**

Gibbonsdown PACT, at Gibbonsdown Residents Road Office, Coychurch Rise at 10.30pm.

Plymouth PACT, June 13, at Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockwill Way at 7pm.

**Bonvilston get-together**  
**PEOPLE over 50 can get together for a coffee morning to make new friends at the Reading Rooms, Bonvilston, every Tuesday from 10am till 12 noon.**

For more information, contact Jane Platts on 01446 795631, or email jane.platts@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk

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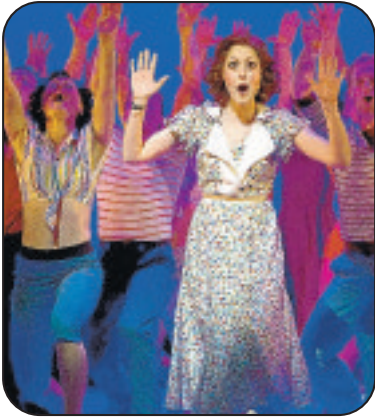
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# Connie looking forward to 'bringing show home'



Barry's Connie Fisher as Ruth Sherwood in *Wonderful Town*. Courtesy of Alastair Muir.

**BARRY** singing sensation Connie Fisher has done a lot since she shot to fame on the back of winning the BBC talent contest 'How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?' in 2006 – landing her the leading role of Maria von Trapp in the West End production of *The Sound Of Music*.

Yet it seemed like everything she had fought to achieve had been taken away from her, after it was revealed that she had congenital sulcus

vocalis, a condition from birth, that meant she had holes in her vocal cords. Doctors warned her she may never sing again.

Successful operations prevented that from happening, but altered her voice range, meaning she is now "bringing my new show home" – Leonard Bernstein's musical *Wonderful Town*.

"It was unfortunate," she told The GEM. "Losing your voice is like losing a limb. It's hard to adapt. Social occasions are difficult. You basically have to live like a nun!"

"But it's a relief to be doing it again. I love my job, love entertain-

## INTERVIEW by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

ing, love telling stories. I've now learned to accept what I can and can't do. I'm not going to be a Julie Andrews who can sing everything, but I've learnt to sing things that I never thought I could.

"My singing coach calls it my Galaxy chocolate voice – it's smooth and a secret indulgence!"

Speaking of her new show, Connie says she couldn't wait to follow in the footsteps of one of her idols.

She added: "I had to get my musical bearings because I didn't know the show or songs at all. "But a really big hero of mine, Maureen Lipman, played my character Ruth Sherwood in the show in the 1980s.

"I wanted to do something different to Maria to show I'm not just a one-trick pony. I wanted to make people laugh as there's always been a comedienne inside of me."

And bringing the show home to Barry will make the tour's end extra sweet for Connie, who spoke of her love for the town and the Vale as a whole.

"I miss my husband, obviously, he's the rea-

son I'm there. I also miss the culture, the heritage, the bay is beautiful and its proximity to Cardiff makes it easy for work.

"The people are lovely. My new friends all speak Welsh and take pride in their country. And all the sea air is great for my lungs!"

And later this year, Connie will be delighted to see the National Eisteddfod come to her home county, an event she has performed in previously and is now involved with heavily, as part of the Gorsedd.

She spoke of the importance for English-speaking Vale residents not to be put off by the language barrier.

"It's not all in Welsh. Obviously you don't want to sit through hours of a language you can't speak, but there are many talented musicians, dance competitions and crafts you can enjoy. I feel it beats Llangollen [International Eisteddfod] hands down!"

"I'm launching a jewellery range with Carrie Elspeth, who is from the area, at the Eisteddfod this year, so I'm really looking forward to that!"

With *Wonderful Town*'s long tour coming to an end this summer, Connie says she will be entering the BBC TV studios again for filming on the hit hospital drama, *Casualty*.

With a bright future, she won't forget the health problems that almost brought her

career to an end, and is grateful for everything she has coming her way.

"It's been a wonderful tour with four and five-star reviews everywhere. There's a chance it could go to the West End and why not?"

"I just want it to go out with a bang, with a special show in my home."

## Barry set for Arts Festival

**THIS** summer, Barry will have its own Arts Festival, running from July 27 to August 5.

Canolfan Porthceri Centre secured funding from Arts Council Wales and Newydd Housing and is ready to unveil their programme of music, painting, comedy, poetry, bands, creative writing and choirs.

Established artists, such as Del Rey, will be performing for the first time in Barry and award-winning folk band Taran and Gillian Clarke, National Poet of Wales, are also part of the programme.

Community involvement will be a vital part of proceedings and everyone is invited to take part in community events marking the festival – the wall-hanging

project and mural will commemorate a week where people come together to get creative and have fun. Barry is also bursting with home-grown talent and this will be on display during the many fringe events taking place.

Dot Connell, Chair of Canolfan Porthceri Centre, said: "What has been really special is the way that other organisations like Vale Blues Jazz and Roots, VOGA, Pukka Productions, Art4U, have come together to run events of their own, as part of the festival."

"It's become such a feature that we decided to call it the Fringe!"

For a full list of events go to [www.porthceri.co.uk](http://www.porthceri.co.uk) or find us on Facebook and on Twitter @BarryArtsFest.



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### Grassland event

WALES YFC will attend the Royal Welsh Grassland Event at Pentre Farm, Merthyr Cynnog (by kind permission of Mr John R Davies, president of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society) tomorrow (Friday, June 8).

### Floral society

JUNE will be a busy month for the Barry Floral Society: on Tuesday, (June 12) Mrs Gloria Davis of Ammanford, will give a demonstration entitled 'Those Golden Years' at 2.15pm.

On June 26, members and friends will enjoy an afternoon of 'celebration', with a demonstration by Alison Bentley of Wenvoe, a display of designs by members, and an afternoon tea (2.30pm-4pm) at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry. Visitors welcome.

### Church auction

SULLY church, which has begun fundraising for work, including tree surgery, urgently needed in the parish churchyard, is holding an auction evening on June 13 in the Old School, Sully at 7.30pm. Donated antiques, china, gifts, art-work and other items. Everybody welcome; entry at the door £1.

### Art society's outdoor demo

ON Thursday, June 14, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local artist and tutor Peter Cronin, who will be giving hints and tips on sketching and will lead a sketching session outdoors.

Peter paints mainly in watercolours in a traditional transparent manner, although recently he has been working with oils. He is a member of the Watercolour Society of Wales.

If bad weather prevents an outdoor session, alternative arrangements will be made for indoors.

Members are asked to bring along all appropriate materials.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge on Thursday evenings (7pm-9pm) and visitors are most welcome. For further information, visit [www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com](http://www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com).

### Flying circus

FRED'S Flying Circus, starring Y Bont Faen pupils, takes place on June 15-16.

Tickets available online, £6. Remaining tickets will be sold on the door on the night.

Contact Y Bont Faen Primary School, Borough Close, Cowbridge, CF71 7BN on 01446 772374.

### Summer fete

THE Parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry will hold its annual summer fete in the grounds of St Cadoc's Church (the old village hall in Cadoxton) on Saturday, June 16 at 2pm.

There will be games, a bouncy castle (weather permitting), fancy dress, a grand prize draw, and many stalls with: cakes, bric-a-brac, jewellery, bottles, gifts, refreshments and more.

The Barry Brass Band will also be playing in the afternoon. Adult entry charge is 30p.

## Bodie and Yogi sign up for Ty Hafan!



Portuguese water dogs - Bodie and Yogi.

BOISTEROUS brothers Bodie and Yogi have already signed up for Ty Hafan's brand new event this year - being held for that very special friend in your life - your pet dog!

'Hounds for Pounds' will take place on Sunday, August 5 in Margam Country Park between 11am-4pm.

Entry costs £5 per adult, all children under 16 years old go free and each entrant is asked to raise £30 minimum in sponsorship.

Register at: [www.tyhafan.org/hounds](http://www.tyhafan.org/hounds), or contact 02920 672 060.

The entry fee includes parking at Margam Country Park and a special treat for all dogs.

## KOOKIE'S KITCHEN

STEVE BELL is the owner of Kookie's Kitchen, Cowbridge's newest cafe, situated within Happy Days Vintage Homestore on Church Street, Cowbridge.

For the past five years, Steve was running Cookin' Camper, the catering company based around 'Cooky', the red and cream VW camper van that

has been a familiar sight on Vale roads.

"Our aim at Kookie's is to serve both straightforward and some more unusual cafe foods, cooked to our own recipes, using fantastic, locally sourced ingredients," he said.

Steve has appeared on BBC2's 'One Man and his Campervan', as well as cooking live on the 'Jamie and Louise Show' on BBC Radio Wales.

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## The role of a US combat cameraman

THE Americans are coming – and you can join them at the Wartime Weekend on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17.

The events run from 10am-5pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday.

Most people think of the combat soldier or the fighter pilot when they think of the war, but for local photographer Ade Pitman it's the people who captured the images and sounds of the war that fascinates, and that's why he portrays the role of a combat cameraman.

Although the first images of battle were captured on glass plates during the American Civil War, the Second World War became the first war to be extensively recorded by the media.

With no televisions at the time, radio broadcasts were recorded during the battles and even from aircraft during bombing raids.

As the people who captured this history themselves fade into memory, these images and broadcasts bear testament to the Second World War and historians the world over owe a debt of gratitude to the bravery of these combat cameramen.

Ade commented: "I started re-enacting the role of a combat cameraman to combine my love of photography with an interest in the history of the Second World War."

"In doing this, I try to ensure that these brave men and women are remembered, including those photographers and cameramen who are currently capturing the images of the frontline



**ABOVE:** Ade Pitman will be documenting the Wartime Weekend in his guise as a combat cameraman.

that we see on today's news.

"You can become detached from your surroundings when viewing them through a lens, which during battle re-enactments can be dangerous.

"But for the real combat cameraman it can be fatal, as Joseph Longo, founder of the International Combat Camera Association, says: 'The brave ones shoot bullets; the crazy ones shoot film'."

"During the war years, photographic film and developing facilities were almost impossible for most people to get hold of, but the Barry papers of the day show that US Servicemen were still able to take photographs; very often of their weddings to local girls."

As part of the Barry at War group's project to record the Vale of Glamorgan's wartime history, the group would be interested to see and make copies of any of these wartime photos.

The official photographer for the Wartime Weekend, Ade Pitman, will be in action throughout the event, and the photos can be seen and purchased from his website: [www.adepitmanphotography.co.uk](http://www.adepitmanphotography.co.uk).

Dr Jonathan Hicks

## SCOTT'S SCI-FI EPIC IN SCALE, but weak on everything else!

**W**HEN Ridley Scott declared he was returning to the science-fiction genre, fans' hopes of it being linked to the *Alien* franchise were seemingly dashed, when Scott claimed there was no link between his new film and the series.

Scott must be a terribly good poker player as, further down the line, he backtracked and told how *Prometheus* would be a prequel 'of sorts' to *Alien*, leaving fans rabidly eager to sample Scott's sci-fi skill set once again.

Set in the future, it sees scientists Elizabeth and Charlie (Nomi Rapace and Logan Marshall Green) lead an expedition into the furthest reaches of space, having discovered clues to the origins of mankind.

Alongside a ragtag mob, including the likes of Idris Elba, Charlize Theron and Rafe Spall, the scientists' discoveries put the future of mankind at risk as they stumble across something incredibly dangerous...

30 years after he wrote the rulebook on sci-fi horror with *Alien*, Ridley Scott has morphed into a director of epic proportions – the likes of *Gladiator*, *Black Hawk Down* and *Kingdom of Heaven* all offering spectacle in excess. So his return to the genre that kick started his career has been met with the sort of fervour rarely seen in these days of blockbusters.

*Prometheus*, however, is a film that cleaves very closely to the rules Scott helped create, and while it looks unbelievably beautiful and, at times, wonderfully dangerous, is let down by a

### SCREEN TALK



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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poor script and some less than impressive performances.

Scott's visual sense is keenly felt here, the opening shots absolutely gorgeous as we soar through mountains and rivers, and he maintains this level of spectacle throughout.

The film is shot beautifully, the computer graphics seamlessly incorporated into the mix delivering plenty of bang for your buck – while even the much-maligned 3D comes out OK; with even the darkest of scenes lit well enough to allow for the 3D glasses' automatic darkening not to be too much of a hindrance.

Scott and his director of photography Dariusz Wolski are on fine form throughout, but despite the gorgeous visuals, elsewhere there is not so much to praise.

When the film was announced, co-writer Damon Lindelof claimed it was a "...far cry from *Alien*" – which is fair enough, although the fact that he and Jon Spaihts have seemingly used the template of

that film show it isn't that far away. In places, it feels like a tick-the-box script with large elements of foreshadowing being delivered in a less than subtle way.

The dialogue is also weak, further hampering actors who are far better than the performances they offer here.

Noomi Rapace lands the strong female role, but sadly isn't up to the task, the actress delivering a physically committed but slightly wooden turn, while the likes of Logan Marshall Green, Idris Elba and Sean Harris are all caught up playing archetypes that don't develop.

While Charlize Theron is solid, but with very little to do, the best turn on show falls to Michael Fassbender's android, who brings a detachment, but with an underlying hint of malevolence, that makes him a wildcard, never knowing what he's going to do next.

If more components had been up to the standard of Fassbender's performance then *Prometheus* would have been quite the spectacle; however, as it is, the film is simply a pleasing return to a familiar world that works better as nostalgia than as a new cinematic adventure.

**VERDICT** – Rich in scale and grandiose ambition, Ridley Scott's return to sci-fi is a welcome one, but *Prometheus*' failure to incorporate strong performances or script mean that this a gorgeous looking film with little under the bonnet dressed as up as something deep and meaningful. *Average*.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Alien* (1977), *Pitch Black* (2000).

## Residents honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards this year

THE names of south-east Wales people to be honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, have been announced.

In line with the Gorsedd of the Bards' revised arrangements for honouring new members, which are in place for the first time this year, all new members will enter the Gorsedd on the same level, irrespective of whether they are honoured into the blue or green robes.

From now on, only the winners of the main stage competitions at the National Eisteddfod will be honoured with White robes. Everyone else entering the Gorsedd will be accepted either to the blue or the green, dependent on their area of expertise.

**Honorary druid – blue robes** – services to the nation in the field of law, science, sports, journalism, media, local / national activities:

Born and brought up in Gilfach Goch, **Betsi Griffiths** was head-teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Tonypandy for 25 years, from the opening of the school. She is an integral part of her community as a reporter for the local paper *bro, Tafod Elai*.

**Gwenda Griffiths** has provided a unique service to the nation in the media for the past 30 years. Originally from the Vale of Clwyd, she has lived in Cardiff for many years. She set up the TV production company, 'Flic' in the early days of S4C, and has been responsible for excellent series like 'Pedair Wal', 'Y Ty' 'Cymreig', and 'Y Cwprdd Dillad'.

**Carwyn Jones** has been the First Minister of Wales since 2009. He has been the Assembly Member for Bridgend since 1999, and was the Minister for Education, Culture and the Welsh Language from 2007-2009.

A barrister by profession, he worked at the

Gower Chambers in Swansea for ten years. He is interested in a wide range of sports, especially rugby, and is an avid fan of his local team in Bridgend.

**Arwel Ellis Owen** enjoyed a successful career in broadcasting, working as news editor for BBC Wales, head of programmes at the BBC in Northern Ireland, chair of the International Film School and temporary chief executive at S4C.

He has greatly influenced the media, and has received international acclaim for his work. He is currently chair of the Care Council for Wales and vice-president of the National Library of Wales.

**Gwerfyl Thomas** has made a great contribution to the cultural life of Bridgend and Porthcawl. An enthusiastic teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Maesteg, she has also been a great worker for the Tabernacle Chapel.

She was one of the founding members of Cŵr Merched y Fro and contributed greatly to the campaign to set up the local paper *bro, Yr Hogwr*.

She is an enthusiastic member of the Porthcawl Literary Society and is a regular competitor in Eisteddfodau.

The Gorsedd also honours new members to the green robes for their contribution to the arts.

Those who have succeeded in the Gorsedd examination or are eligible because of their degree in literature, music, drama or art, also receive the green robes, as will the winner of the Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize every year and the winners of the Urdd Crown and Chair.

The following four south east Wales residents will also receive the Green robes.

**Basil Davies, Barry**, has been committed to working for the Welsh language on a professional and voluntary basis for many years.

His name has been linked with the Welsh for Adults sector for over 30 years. Although originally from Llanddaraog, Carmarthen, he has lived in Barry since 1974.

The tenor voice of

popular singer, **Wynne Evans**, has mesmerised audiences across Wales and beyond for over a quarter of a century. He is principal tenor at Welsh National Opera, and regularly appears with other opera companies. Originally from Carmarthen, he now lives in Cardiff.

A leading actress since the early 1960s, **Lisabeth Miles**, has enjoyed a long and varied career, and is still appearing on our screens today. She starred on Welsh stages throughout this period, becoming a firm favourite with people of all ages.

She has also been generous with her time, training young people at the Royal College of Music and Drama, and her unwavering work for Welsh culture in Cardiff is commendable.

Originally from Cardiff, **Huw Stephens**, broke onto the scene in 1999, when chosen as one of Radio 1's presenters to introduce new Welsh music to a UK wide audience.

As the station's youngest ever presenter, his career has gone from strength to strength and he always gives the Welsh language a prominent role within his programmes. He continues to broadcast in Welsh on Radio Cymru and in 2007, he created the Sw'n Festival, a brand new music festival in Cardiff.

The chair of the local executive committee at each Eisteddfod will also be honoured with the blue robe in the following Eisteddfod.

Among the other well-known faces honoured this year are rugby players, Stephen Jones and Shane Williams, former footballers and commentators, John Hartson and Iwan Roberts, who will receive the Blue robes.

A full list of recipients is on the Eisteddfod website at [www.eisteddfod.org.uk](http://www.eisteddfod.org.uk)

The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod is held on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llaniwit Major from 4-11 August. For more information go online or ring 0845 4090 400. Tickets available online or by ringing the ticket-line – 0845 4090 800.

## Barrivale Bridge

LATEST results from Barrivale: Club open pairs championship, May 15 and 22.

1st Sean Macdougall and Ann Macdougall 57.5%; 2nd Celia Thomas and Jane Brook 56.94%; 3rd Noelle Bond and Mick Green 56.25% = 3rd Kay Dyer and Diana Kendrick 56.25%

The Open pairs handicap winners were Kay and Diana

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.



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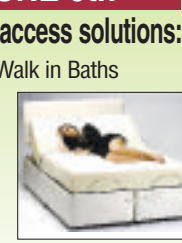
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# Joyous Jubilee!

## Coity takes its Jubilee street party into the castle instead!

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RESIDENTS at Coity made use of their historic landmark, the castle, when they staged their Jubilee street party, as these photographs show.



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## Double cause for a celebration!

Photographs by  
**ANDY WICKS**

Photographer Andy Wicks was out and about at various Queen's Diamond Jubilee events, but he found that Llantwit Major landlords had planned a dual celebration.

Three of the local pubs, the Boverton Castle, the Carne Arms, and the Old Swan, were all staging beer and/or music festivals - which gave locals something extra to celebrate!

**LEFT:**  
Enjoying the atmosphere at the Carne Arms.



**ABOVE:** Revellers at the Old Swan. Lots of people were wearing red, white and blue over the Jubilee weekend - but the Stars and Stripes?



**ABOVE:** Villagers at St Hilary enjoyed a full day of events, and these young ones were photographed by Andy Wicks.



# Cefn Glas pupils enjoy a real Queen's Jubilee celebration!



ABOVE:  
Children in Cefn Glas  
Infants School enjoyed  
a Jubilee tea,

Images by **RANDELL JOHN**  
www.randelljohnphotography.com  
Telephone 01656 662324



PUPILS and staff  
in Cefn Glas  
Infants School  
went to town for  
the Queen's  
Diamond Jubilee,  
and our photogra-  
pher Randell John  
was there to cap-  
ture the day.

The teachers were  
resplendent in red,  
white and blue (see  
page 1 picture), while  
the children were a  
riot of colour as well!

Meanwhile, in  
Coity (see facing page  
and photos on right)  
there was a street  
party, followed by  
activities and enter-  
tainment in the castle,  
including a tug of  
war.



A street party near Coity Castle.



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## High above Cowbridge, a beacon for Her Majesty...



Photographs by **MIKE BAKER**



ABOVE and BELOW: TV personality Ruth Wignall lit the beacon.



**THERE** was a fine turn-out on St Hilary Downs for the lighting of Cowbridge's Diamond Jubilee beacon.

Crowds made their way to the site, and the Town Mayor, Coun Nicola Thomas, was keen to thank all the people who had worked to make it happen.

She said: "A really big thank you goes to Nicholas Thomas, of Splott Farm, Welsh St Donats and his team, who loaned the machinery and built the bonfire."

"Richard Taylor of Ashdown Fencing was a great help, and James Rees of Inturf in Bridgend, loaned a turf cutting machine."

"Mike and Howard Gibbon provided wood, Arthur John and Co helped with transport, Llandow Tool Hire loaned a generator, Fenton Agricultural Engineers, and the St John Ambulance were there, too."

She added: "I would like also to thank the stewards who came forward, Andy Banks for the safety advice, Jon Wilks, who was the MC, Ruth Wignall for lighting it, Rev David Boulton for his prayer, Gary Trotman's steel band – and my fellow members on the council sub-committee, Andrea Burges and Elisabeth George – for all their help."



ABOVE: There was a steel band, as well!

BELOW: The beacon in the early evening.



## Would your village like to run its own cinema?

**AN** organisation that supports people in the Vale countryside, is asking them the following question: "Are you interested in setting up a cinema club in your village?"

A special meeting is being held in Dinas Powys to explain what the scheme is all about.

Mari-Wyn Pivotti, senior rural regeneration officer for Creative Rural Communities, explained: "We have an exciting new initiative for rurally-based pubs and village venues in the Vale."

"If people are interested in setting up a cinema project, they might be interested in the session that we're running for pub owners and landlords, as well as village halls."

"We are running an information session for anyone who is interested in running cinema nights in their local

village. This session will be held on Monday, June 11, from 6pm until 10pm at The Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

"The session will include a demonstration on the type of equipment used at a mobile cinema, and also information on how to set up this type of community cinema venture."

"It is free of charge and refreshments will be provided."

"This may then lead to the possible hiring of mobile cinema equipment from Creative Rural Communities to run a trial and, if successful, the chance to apply for one of our grants to purchase cinema equipment."

If you are interested in attending the meeting, contact Mari-Wyn Pivotti on 01446 704637 or email mwepivot@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

## Skittle team member becomes an Olympic torchbearer



ABOVE:

Sarah Aston carrying the Olympic torch.

**SARAH ASTON**, a member of the Welsh Wizards skittles team, was nominated to be an Olympic torchbearer on Saturday, May 26, in Barry.

Sarah ran the 300 metres between Whitewell Road and Port Road. Lots of friends and family were there to cheer her on.

She was nominated for her fundraising efforts for Cancer Research UK. Sarah and The Welsh Wizards Skittle Team have been organising events for the past seven years.

The team is made up of 20 local residents who decided to give up some of their spare time to organise events. They were inspired by Rachel Bourke from the ShootOut Club, who also runs marathons in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Last year, they raised more than £4,000 and each year they aim to achieve at least the same as the previous year.

Following the closure of The Three Bells, the team approached Trevor to see if they could arrange their monthly meetings at The Master Mariner and have been there since November, on the last Sunday of the month.

Sarah, a 43-year-old from Barry, works full

time at Cardiff Airport at the Change Group and until recently was a foster parent.

A friend said: "She also suffers from Crohn's Disease but, despite this, she is always busy, giving up her spare time organising bucket collections, car boot sales, pub crawls, music events, duck races and even hobby horse races."

"She also takes part in The Race 4 Life every year."

Speaking after carrying the torch, Sarah said: "It was an incredible day that I will remember for the rest of my life."

"I was thrilled to be nominated and honoured to be chosen to run with the torch in my home town."

"Although it was a relatively short distance, to me it felt like a lifetime! I am not one to enjoy the lime-light."

"This honour has encouraged me to continue with our efforts to raise funds for a charity that is close to my heart and my schedule is already packed with visits to local schools and community groups who are eager to share the excitement of the torch and hear all about the day."

"I will treasure the torch and experience forever."



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# CADOXTON BOWLERS' MUNRO CUP SUCCESS

**CADOXTON hosted a Munro Cup game with Llantwit Major and completed a successful win.**

Graham Brown, who was in superb form, had a very comfortable win on his rink against Neville Young. They conceded shots on just four ends, whilst compiling shots steadily throughout the game. Gil Powell came on as substitute when Steve Clarke became ill with four ends left.

Kelvin Chedgoy skipped an up and down match against Mike Aplin. The home side took a 7-0 lead after five ends, but five ends later they were one shot down at 7-8. The score moved on to 11-9 but two ends later it was reversed again to 11-12. With the scores level, a 'three' on the penultimate end gave the home side the lead once more, which was reduced by one on the last.

Don Kuhnell's rink had a tight match against Steve Booker. An early 'four' gave the home side an advantage, but once this was matched with singles the advantage to either side was not more than two throughout the remainder of the game. On the 15th end the game was tied at 12-12, the advantage then went to the visitors with two more singles to make ten, in total, for the night. A single on the last left the difference of one in Llantwit's favour.

Howard Craven also had a fairly even game against Danny Ahearn; up until the 12th end, when the scores were level at 10-10. However, during the remainder of the game the visitors took command with two 'three's and three singles, whilst only two

were scored against.

**SCORES:** S Clarke, L Adams, J Sugden, G Brown 25 - 6 K Williams, D Lancaster, A Hayes, N Young; T Bishop, D Fanning, G Davies, H Craven 12 - 19 J Crane, G Merchant, N Parry, D Ahearn; J Stacey, M Mathews, J Stewart, D Kuhnell 13 - 14 T Ingroville, G Williams, D Johns, S Booker; R Knight, G Solomon, L Davies, K Chedgoy 15 - 13 C Colling, A Horgan, E Sparks, M Aplin. Final score: 65 - 52.

## CADOXTON V MURCH - FRIENDLY

**Cadoxton and Murch played this friendly match prior to the league programme starting next week.**

It ended with two winning rinks and one tied for the visitors. However, the overall result went to Murch by just one shot.

Howard Craven skipped his rink to win handsomely against what looked a strong rink, skipped by Colin Garland. The advantage after 17 ends was 22 shots, but this was reduced over the last four ends by nine shots.

Kelvin Chedgoy found Roger Mauchline too strong after a close start, 4-6 after six ends. A 'four' started a run for the home side which only allowed the visitors a 'two' and three singles during the remainder of the game.

Don Kuhnell's four struggled to find it during the first four ends to go 1-5 down against Colin Grant. By the seventh end the scores were level and the visitors went on to lead by one after 11 ends. The home side then took command during the next six ends by scoring ten against two. A

recovery, including a 'four' on the 19th, brought the scores level, until a single broke the run on the penultimate end. A two on the last reversed the advantage.

Graham Brown's rink came up against Bob Hill's rink in a close game. For most of the game they were slightly in front. Three winning ends for the visitors reversed a three-shot deficit to a three-shot advantage by the eighth end to bring the scores level.

Five wins from the next six opened a three-shot lead for the home side. A 'five' on the next regained the lead. The three-shot advantage was still held going into the penultimate end, but a 'four' gave the home side hope of a win before a single made the final outcome a tie.

**SCORES:** P Ellis, W Vaughan, J Crout, H Craven 27 - 14 M Warman, R Pemberton, J Mansfield, C Garland; G Solomon, J Sugden, W Eadie, G Brown 20 - 20 K Crouch, G Russell, J Evans, B Hill; T Bishop, L Cundliffe, D Brook, D Kuhnell 22 - 21 S Salvidge, G Lane, I Robinson, C Grant; D Tuck, H Hellyar, L Davies, K Chedgoy 9 - 24 D Poole, P Venn, M Hughes, R Mauchline. Final score: 78 - 79.

**CADOXTON 'A' V MILLWOOD 'A' - SVL**  
Unfortunately, Millwood omitted to put this match on their fixture list, and did not turn up for the game at Cadoxton.

DK

## CRICKET CLUB HAVE SUPPORT FROM CJ!



**ABOVE: Sully Centurions Cricket Club are grateful to CJ Contract Travel for their sponsorship for the 2012 season. The picture shows Centurions' Director of Cricket Jamie Sylvester with some of the junior players after receiving their new sponsored sweaters from Chris Mort of CJ Contract Travel.**

## Tennis winners



**OVER 20 years ago a stalwart lady of Dinas Powys Tennis Club, Ruth Tamlyn, died through cancer.**

She left a pair of silver salvers to the club and for the past 23 years there has been an annual ladies' tennis tournament in her name.

This year's tournament was played last month and although windy, the sun shone and 25 ladies played some fine tennis.

Seven junior members played for the first time and two of them won the tournament - Olivia

Hamzelou and Libby Smith. All showed potential of strong and thoughtful play.

In the final, Janet Kennedy and Veronica Palmer put up good opposition but the youngsters had more energy and guile.

Nan Thomas, a friend and team member with Ruth, presented the salvers before supper.

Thanks to Judith Meddins (captain), Angela Rankin and Keith Hudson for their help in a successful evening.

NW

## Lions cap off good season with win

**Park Lions under-14s finished the season on a high note, beating Sully B 6-1.**

Sully B performed well, making the Lions work hard to achieve their victory.

After the match the Lions made their way to McDonalds to celebrate.

The players of Park Lions under-14s would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Glynne Harrihy (coach and manager) and Neil Williams for providing the McDonald's meals.

**The Park Lions under-14s squad: Adrian**

Krahulec, Conor Froud, Ajay Harrihy, Brandon Froud, Louis Froud, Sam Lewis, Mathew James, Gabriel Cleary, Adam Hazelwood, Ethan Shaw, Osian Bowden-Morgan, Ben Jones, Ryan Miller, Rhys Williams, Jacob Halliday.

The squad and manager Glynne have developed enormously this season.

The support provided by Biology has enabled the team to progress and move forward and their help and generosity has been widely appreciated.

EH

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(Free Parking available opposite the shop)



# MOTOR SPORT ENTHUSIASTS TURN OUT FOR POPULAR LLANDOW CHARITY EVENT

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are  
available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased  
by contacting:

e-mail [ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk)  
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

AN annual charity event at Llandow race circuit is well on its way to becoming a fixture on the calendar of motor sport enthusiasts after having its most successful day ever.

Every year, Christopher Darwin co-ordinates the event from his home in Devon, and arranges for keen car drivers to travel to Llandow for the charity day.

It gives the car owners a chance to test their cars under racing conditions on a proper race track. In return, they give a donation to charity.

Mr Darwin said: "We had our best day ever at Llandow, with excellent weather, the right amount of cars and our most money raised - £2,820.

"This will be split between The Ed Evans Foundation and Combat Stress. Gift Aid will add more than £600 to the total."

He continued: "The six track days at Llandow since June 2008 have raised more than £15,000 for charity.

"My thanks go to the management of Llandow circuit for the generous discount which made this result possible."

Mr Darwin intends to repeat the event next year, and any local drivers who would like to take part and have some 'Fun with a Purpose' should contact Christopher Darwin 01288 381265 or [c.darwin@virgin.net](mailto:c.darwin@virgin.net)



## Vale under-15s' sevens success

THE Vale of Glamorgan under-15s rugby 7s team travelled to Church Bank, home of Llandovery RFC, to compete in the Welsh Schools under-15s Sevens tournament.

Drawn in a group including Bridgend, Pontypool, Swansea and Cardiff, they set about their task for the day well.

Firstly beating Bridgend by 17 points to 5, they followed this with convincing wins over Pontypool and Swansea.

Unfortunately their last group match was against a strong Cardiff team, losing narrowly.

This meant they progressed to the semi final of the Plate competition with opponents Swansea

The Vale team brushed aside the much-fancied west Wales side, ably led by Harry Roberts with all other squad players giving their all when called upon during the number of energy sapping matches.

In the Plate final they met Islwyn and carried on their winning ways after an inspiring team talk by coach Howell to get the players firing on all cylinders and come away from this national tournament with some silverware.

Well done to all players involved.

Squad: - Harry Roberts, Nick Boudier, John Miles, Che Pumphrey, Owain Lord, Morgan Williams, George Connelly, Steffan Baker, Matt Allen, Ed Howley and James Whittingham. DW

## BOWLERS' JOY

ON Tuesday Llantwit Major lady bowlers welcomed Cowbridge B.C. and had quite a one sided game.

Cowbridge, who play on an artificial green, didn't get to grips with our grass and Llantwit won on all rinks - I'm sure when we go to Cowbridge they will have their revenge.

We gained the full 10 points and the rinks were Edna Hardie, Margaret Horgan, Carol Willmot and May Davies 32 - 8; Liz Crouch, Etta Gray, Marian Lewis and Eryl

Nicholls 21 - 11; Kay Johns, Barbara Lewis, Margaret Morgan and Peggy Pike 30 - 5.

On Thursday we travelled to Barry Central and we all had a good game again, winning on two rinks and drawing on one, taking 9 out of the 10 points.

The rinks were Kay Johns, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan 28 - 6; Liz Crouch, Vera Wickenden, May Davies and Marian Lewis 14 - 14; Edna Hardie, Margaret Horgan, Pat Cook and Etta Gray 17 - 12. KJ

## COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

### Basketballers represent country

**Basketball WALES recently hosted Scotland at Basketball Wales Elite National Development Centre (ENDC) at Rhondda Fach Sports Centre.**

As part of the preparation for the 2013 FIBA European Championships next summer, the Welsh under-16s boys took a bronze medal at the European Championships.

With Sam Roberts of Cowbridge Comprehensive starting, the under-15s have been involved in home internationals, playing Ireland in April. Two pupils from Cowbridge, Mattie Roberts and Tom Trotman, were selected following Cowbridge Comprehensive winning the Welsh basketball KS3 last year.

Despite Wales not coming home with a win, both Tom and Mattie

made significant contributions in the recent international against Ireland in Dublin.

Scotland have been a dominant force in European basketball, medalling in the last two previous under-16s European Championships and once again proved tough opponents for Wales. Mattie and Tom played with pride, passion and skill in a packed arena, both scoring early in the game to give the Welsh an early lead.

Regrettably, the early momentum could not be sustained, with Scotland proving too powerful, though Mattie and Tom scored a quarter of Wales's points between them.

Next season will see internationals for the under-16s against England and Ireland, training camp in Luxembourg with the European Championships July 2013 due to be staged in Montenegro. We wish



ABOVE: Members of the year-10 team pose for a group photo.

the boys every success in their goal of achieving gold next summer.

**Film stars!** AROUND six months ago, the school year-10 rugby team were filmed by the Welsh Rugby Union as an example of excellence.

Sixteen of the boys

were invited to attend a training session in The Vale which was filmed and used as part of the WRU coaching development component of the national website.

The players also got to meet former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils Rory Watts-Jones and Lloyd Williams who

were taking part in national squad training sessions at the same time. The boys spent the afternoon being coached by a number of WRU development officers and many of the videos can be seen on the WRU website under 'coaching development' - 'coach-ing locker'.

You can use the hyperlink below to access the videos.: [http://www.wru.coachinglocker.co.uk/contact-rugby-\(u11-u12-u13-u14\)/contact-rugby-skills/lineout---u13's---u14's/decoy-movement-twinning-space.aspx](http://www.wru.coachinglocker.co.uk/contact-rugby-(u11-u12-u13-u14)/contact-rugby-skills/lineout---u13's---u14's/decoy-movement-twinning-space.aspx)



## Bridgend MP surprises Sandville with cheque



Gwyneth Poacher, Madeleine Moon MP and Peggy Parish.

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon continues to help local voluntary organisations with money earned from completing parliamentary questionnaires.**

She said: "This time, my donation was for Sandville, although catching up with Gwyneth Poacher proved a problem. Finally, we met up last week and I delivered the cheque.

"Gwyneth explained that Sandville was busier than ever, with more and more people coming through the doors for help who are suffering difficulties.

"Gwyneth and her staff at Sandville are always cheerful and positive and are planning the next event to raise funds for Sandville. Their Sandville motto says it all - *Listening, Looking, Learning, Loving, Laughter will enable you to Live a Longer, healthier Life.*"

## Tales from Laleston's ghostly history

**THE village of Laleston is two miles west of Bridgend and on the edge of the Vale, with landmarks which enhance its character.**

It dates back to Norman landowners named Lageles, Lachelston and Laheles and the terrain was then presented to the monks of Margam Abbey by the families.

The village probably had its origins dating back to earlier times, as nearby fields leading to Tythegston, to the south west, boast a chambered tomb from the Neolithic period named Cae Tor, which is a buried megalithic monument from 2500 - 2000 BC.

Laleston was the centre of Christian worship from 1173, with records relating to Tewkesbury Abbey. A raised pre-Norman circular churchyard and Church built possibly of mud are thought to have existed because two mysterious headstones from 11 - 12 Century were located within the vicinity. The Church was dedicated to St Cewydd, and in 1180, William, Earl of Gloucester, granted the land to William Lageles. The modern Church of St David was listed as a Grade I monument in 1963, dominates the village and was constructed around the 13th - 14th Century. It contains a nave, chancel, a proportional tower and south porch.

It was restored in 1871 by John Pritchard, who probably laid the floor 18 inches higher than its original base, as burials were permitted inside the church between 1650 and 1750. Cliff Cottage became collaborated with the

Church during 18th Century.

The church of the present day, at the heart of the village, stands inside the almost circular churchyard which is enclosed within rubble walls and a wrought iron gate. The churchyard contains a Grade II listed medieval period cross, which could have been the focal point of a preaching site.

The former Horeb Presbyterian Church is a 19th Century building and became Grade II listed in 1990. It is now used as an independent school.

Legendary tales are common in villages, and Laleston is no exception. One of interest involves a man who collapsed outside one of the three public houses which were hotspots in the High Street.

The landlord of the first gave the man a stiff brandy which promptly revived him, and then he continued on his way. Sadly the same occurrence happened outside the second public house called The Bell (once situated in front of the church), and the landlord here gave him another brandy.

However, the landlord of the third pub emptied a bucket of water over the man. He was last seen running towards Bridgend, never to be seen in the flesh again.

But, the lifelike ghostly image of a man dressed in old-fashioned clothing has been spotted wandering up the street only to disappear in a hazy mist. Could this be the gentleman returning for his free dose of brandy?

Another Welsh tale of folklore involves the Saracen mason and architect Lalys, who was

captured during the Crusades between 1095 and 1291. He was compelled to build a church in nearby Llangewdd. Irrate at being forced to perform such a task, his legacy lives on in the form of disembodied hands leaping through a non-existent book around the area of his long forgotten place of worship.

Around the main church, at the dead of night, the phantom sound of congregational singing has eerily been heard. Could the people of yesteryear be chanting their hymns in the hope of being heard by the innocents of today?

In the fields beyond the mini roundabout, the strange vision of an unusual white animal has been seen. Described as resembling a cross between a deer and big cat, could this peculiar creature be lost in the midst of time, or just an illusion of imagination?

The spine-chilling echo of a stagecoach travelling at pace has been heard, tearing down an imaginary lane at dusk, forcing bystanders to violently jump from its path, only to discover that nothing of this nature is travelling through. Could this frightful noise be a hurried re-enactment from a bygone era when horse and carriage was the only means of transport?

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide... There will be a summer solstice ghost talk and walk on Thursday, June 21 at the Swan Inn, Nottage, Porthcawl at 6pm. £2.50 per person on entry. Be prepared to be scared!

**HAYLEY WILLIAMS**  
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

## SHARE YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

### Children's choir in concert

**I HAD the pleasure of attending a concert at the Ynysawdre Community Hall last Friday evening and must congratulate the new committee which has taken over the running of the hall, for this was the first concert it had ever arranged.**

As one entered the hall, the members made everyone welcome - the entertainment it had arranged and the refreshments provided was first class.

The entertainment was provided by the Maesteg Children's Choir under its musical director Enid-Siân Hughes, was also compere for the evening and between the songs, recited poems or told jokes which had the audience in stitches.

Siân had been invited to the garden party at Buckingham Palace to mark her efforts with the choir over 26 years.

The children deserve a special mention; aged between eight and 17, they are so dedicated, giving up their free time to entertain others, especially when most of their friends were enjoying the celebration events put on for the start of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Jubilee.

The choir started the evening with the Canadian peace song 'Somewhere Out There', and 'The Lord Is My Shepherd', and this was followed by the soloist for the evening, Rhian Hughes, who is just finishing her second year at the University of Wales, and is the daughter of Siân.

Rhian was accompanied by the choir's new accompanist Rhiannon Williams-Hale; they had never practised together before this evening but both settled down very quickly as Rhian sang 'On My Own' from the musical 'Les Misérables'.

Rhiannon had earlier in the year fractured her wrist, but even though movement is a little restricted, it was not apparent with her playing throughout the evening.

Rhian has improved so much since I first heard her sing solo four years ago.

The choir then sang 'When You Believe' from the film 'The Prince of Egypt' and the Australian hit song 'Before The World Began'. This was followed with Siân telling some jokes and then the choir singing the only Welsh song of the evening 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir', written by Ryan Davies (and cho-

### NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:*

*If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.*

*I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

**Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL**

**1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ**

**TEL: 01656 725399**

**email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk**



sen by his wife to be played at his funeral), and Alexander Birt's hit version of 'Halleluiah'.

After the interval, the concert carried on, with both the choir and Rhian singing hit songs from West End musicals and hits from the film 'Sister Act'.

One of the chorists, Lauren Coates, who has had an exciting and

eventful year so far, having been chosen for Tim Rhys-Evans' choir 'Only Kids Aloud', which had been invited to sing in Moscow.

Lauren was the winner of the junior section in the competition 'Bridgend Young Singer of the Year', and was invited by Porthcawl Amateur Operatic Society to join its recent show in the Grand Pavilion - 'The Sound Of Music'.

### Double triumph

**THE recent concert in the Llantwit Major, by Cor Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Voice Choir), was organised by the Llantwit Rotarian Society for the "more life-experienced gentle-folk of the locality".**

The concert began with the choir's rendering of Isalaw's 'Sanctus', that set a magnificent standard for the evening.

The three solo performances were by Garw chorister Alan Walters with 'Dafydd Y Garreg Wen', composed by the blind harpist David Owen during his last hours at his farm 'Y Garreg Wen' near Porthmadog; 'Cariwch', medd Dafydd, "fy nhelyni i mi, ceisaf cyn marw i'r tŷ arni hi" ("Carry my harp to me," said David, "I will try before dying to give a tune on it").

Once again, the choir was honoured with guest appearances by Phoebe-Anne Lewis, just returned from a tour of Russia with 'Only Kids Aloud', who sang 'Wait a Bit' (from the musical based on the 'Just So' stories of Rudyard Kipling), 'Once Upon A Dream' (Jekyll and Hyde) and 'Rhywle Draw Dros Yr Enfyf' (Somewhere Over The Rainbow), and Adam Lewis, bass-baritone par excellence who sang 'Stars' (Les Misérables) and 'Fedra I' (Mond Dy Garu Di O Bell) the enchanting love-song by Caryll Parry Jones.

The concert was followed with an 'oldywyn' in the Old White Hart, courtesy of mine host and friend of the choir, Graham Morgan.

The Ellie Jury Appeal concert in the Tabernacle Church, Pontycymer last month raised £300 for this very worthy cause with an evening that was enjoyed by a compact but very appreciative audience and graced by soloists Phoebe-Anne Lewis, Adam Lewis and Alan Walters, whose performances again won deserved applause.

Special guests in the audience were two visitors from Australia, who had served as comrades with Garw Choir Secretary, RSM (ret'd) Dixie Dean of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Joining the choir in his debut performance was Viv Garfield, who is already proving to be a valuable member of the Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw.

### In brief

**Congratulations to Peter and Irene Absalom who are celebrating their Emerald wedding anniversary (55 years) tomorrow, June 8. Everyone associated with St Cein's church, Llangeinor sends them best wishes and hope they have many more happy years together.**

**BRACKLA Community Chorus has announced that its recent concert at Aberkenfig Bible Church to raise funds for Velindre Hospital cancer department has now achieved the magnificent total of £685. Well done to everyone.**

**TONDU Art Society is holding its annual summer concert at the Welfare Hall, Heol Pandy, Aberkenfig and will be open to the public from June 9-12, between 10am and 6pm (except Sunday which will be 11am to 4pm).**

**Coity Castle THERE is going to be a choral delight in Coity Castle grounds on Saturday, June 16, with seven choirs raising money for four worthwhile children's charities.**

The organisers' adopted charities are Bridgend Young Carers, Ty Hafan - the only children's hospice in Wales, Noah's Ark - the only charity that provides support to children who have suffered a family bereavement, and Y Bont - who provide care and support to pre-school children who are suffering from disabilities.

The choirs taking part will be Bridgend Male Choir, Coity Cantorium Mixed Voice Choir, Llanharan Songsters Male Choir, Heritage Singers Ladies' Choir

from the Rhondda, Cŵr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District Male Voice Choir), Morriston Ladies' Choir and Ogmores Valley Male Voice Choir.

The concert will start at 5pm and admission by programme of £5 (please bring your own chair).

**Bridgend Carers Centre THE centre is located at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479) and is a welcoming venue for all.**

On Monday June 11 there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm, in which help is given by providing a book or poem with the opportunity to practice reading out loud.

On Tuesday June 12 between 10.30am to 12 noon, Cruse volunteers will be providing support to carers who have suffered a recent bereavement.

There is a meeting of parent carers with crafts and talks by outside agencies between 1pm and 3pm.

On Wednesday June 13, members of carers organisations throughout Wales will be meeting at a coffee morning to discuss carers' problems between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Between 12.30pm and 3.30pm, the Carers' community café provides a get-together in a friendly and safe environment. If anyone would like to volunteer to help in the café, they are asked to contact the above telephone number.

On June 14, there is the 'Body Blitz' exercise class between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with a fully qualified instructor.

On Friday June 15, there will be a 1940s night at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl; tickets are £15 and can be obtained by telephoning the centre.

The evening will consist of a fish and chip supper, entertainment will be provided by a singer and swing band, 1940s dance demonstration, and a beautician will be available to style carers in 1940s fashion.

**Aberkenfig Bible Church The members of the church (the old Lyric Cinema) in Heol Pandy are organising a table top sale on Saturday June 9 between 1pm-5pm; if interested in booking a table at a cost of £5, phone Brenda on 01656 729095.**



# GETTING INTO THE DIAMOND JUBILEE SPIRIT!



## COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

**Young Samaritans HELPFUL teenagers.** After hearing and reading so much about the youth of today taking drugs, drinking, smoking, fighting, damaging cars and causing annoyance, it is a breath of fresh air to come across a story that belies this.

Mr John Jones, a local man, who is now a resident in Llys Ton, Kenfig Hill, went shopping on his mobility scooter on May 27 when it broke down in the car park of the Co-op in Pyle.

Thanks to the help of two young brothers, who were nearby and noticed John's plight, he was able to get back to home they took the trouble to push him and his Scooter all the way back to Llys Ton.

This was quite some feat as it is almost a mile in distance and uphill all the way.

Unfortunately, these two lads went off without leaving their names and before John was able to thank them properly.

If anyone knows these lads could you please get them to phone me on 07802 439679 as John would like to pass on his sincere thanks to them and we would all like to recognise their good deed.

**KPC Youth REUNION.** A reunion of old and ex members of KPC Youth will be held in Pyle RFC Lounge June 9 at 7pm.

This is an excellent chance to catch up with old friends and remi-

nise over old photographs. It will also give everyone an opportunity to input into KPC's plans to work with older and ex members.

**Working with parents.** There will be a working with parents taster session in the KPC Centre on June 13 from 9.15am to 10.30am. This an opportunity for parents to meet each other over tea and coffee to share challenges and solutions and also tell KPC what you would like to see offered for parents in the future. All are welcome.

For further details contact KPC Youth who are located next to Pil Primary School, Off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend, CF33 6AB, or ring 01656 749219/745399.

**Festival week** Kenfig Hill & Pyle Festival Week On June 16, the Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival will begin with the Festival Queen's tour of the communities.

This will be followed by the Three Choirs concert, performed by the Kenfig Hill & District Choir, Crescendo Youth Choir and the Da Capo Children's Choir. This has been organised by the Pisgah Ladies Fellowship and is being held in Pisgah Chapel at 7pm.

**Wellbeing Centre** MENTAL Health Matters, Wales meets at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on June 6.

Bingo from 2pm to 3pm, information with



ABOVE: Some of the ladies from the Talbot Community Centre who entered into the Jubilee spirit.



Chloe Tozer, Molly Bonsor and Caitlin Shell of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School.

Karen from 2.30pm to pm, a peer mentoring talk with Kathryn from WGCADA from 2.30pm to 4pm and the Reading Group from 3pm to 4pm. Social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

### Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

PUPILS who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Ewan Flower - Class 1, Katy Mansfield - Class 2, Ewan Orchard - Class 3, Joshua Jones - Class 4, Rhys Perry - Class 5, Kaisha Hughes - Class 6 and Joseph Hier - Class 7. The Head-teachers award went to Ryan Legg.

**Inter school matches** - The school played basketball and rounders at home against Trelales on May 25th.

Considering that this is only the school's second basketball match, they are playing really well with, with the A team winning by an incredible 48-4. Although the 'B' Team started off slowly and were behind, however they bounced back winning by an excellent 42-14. It looks like they are developing into a good team this year and they are hopeful that they will be able to play more matches after half term.

The Rounders teams had mixed fortunes, with the 'A' Team com-

ing out on top after a hard fought game winning 5-4. Unfortunately, the 'B' were overwhelmed when Trelales fought back to win by 7 Rounders to 1.

**Sport** - The school are hoping to hold their annual sports day on June 13, weather permitting. They will also be holding their swimming gala on June 18 starting at 10am and finishing around 12 noon.

**Individual Achievements** - Phillip Burnell and Luke Dingle represented the Bridgend District in a 7-a-side tournament in Duvant. They did extremely well in reaching the final only to lose narrowly. Oliver Roberts and Kyle Williams are also doing well with their Cricket Teams outside of school.

As soon as her leg gets better Charlotte Roberts has the chance to train with West Glamorgan.

**Parish news** AT the PCC, nominations for the role of parish treasurer were taken. Mr David Davies was unanimously elected and thanked for the enormous amount of work that this entailed. Thanks were also given to Betty and Jane at Mawldan, along with Gwyneth, Sarah and Dawn at Pyle.

**Motor Neurone**

**Association** - A letter has been received from the Association thanking the Parish for the wonderful donation of £520.

Betty would like to thank everybody for their efforts in raising this money and for everyone to know that it will make a real difference to those suffering from this terrible disease and in the ongoing research to find a cure.

**Film Club** - The next meeting of the film club will be St James' Church Hall on June 14 at 2pm. All are welcome.

**Recycling** GO TO the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on a Tuesday between 2pm and 5pm if you have the following you wish to dispose of: dry, clean, wearable clothes (50p per kg), DVD's with a barcode (20p ea), CD's with barcodes (10p ea), Books and Bric 'a' brac (10p per kg), or mobile phones (valued individually, dependant on model and condition). For more information, ring Cheryl on 01656 746840.

**Diamond Jubilee celebrations** School road - The residents of School Road in Kenfig Hill showed that the Community Spirit is still there. They not only put up bunting across the street and in



Val Jones, Joanie Burgess (winner), Ada Howells and Betty Watson at Talbot Community Centre.



Headteacher Mrs Amanda Stanford (standing), with chair of governors Mrs Greta Rogers seated and (left to right): Sophia Evans, Billy and Jorja Jackson, Deacon and Mackenna Jayne Cox and Hollie Shell.

their windows, they also held a tremendous party on the village green.

With the rain staying away there was a fabulous BBQ accompanied by music. Everyone generally enjoyed themselves, especially the children. However, at the same time they had thoughts for others as well and on the day raised a magnificent £265 for the Eve Appeal.

**Talbot Community Centre** - Last Friday, the Luncheon Club Members and Bingo players got into the Jubilee mood by dressing up in red, white and blue.

The atmosphere in the hall was electric as they paraded for the Judges, when the competition for the most original costume was held and against strong competition, Joanie Burgess won the day. **Mynydd Cynffig Infants School** - Children and their parents had a great day last Friday, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee. Many dressed up for the occasion including Mrs Amanda Stanford. They played many games and even did a big Conga around the playground.



Mr John Jones would like to thank his rescuers.

## 'Cha,cha,cha' to Jubilee dance!

WHY not 'cha, cha, cha' along with some cha at a Jubilee tea dance at the Gathering Place, St Athan, on Saturday, June 9 between 2pm and 4.30pm?

Local dance teacher Alan Taylor and his students will do a demonstration and encourage people to take to the floor for a slow waltz or a cheeky quickstep.

Dancing isn't compulsory, everyone's welcome to just come along, meet friends and

have afternoon tea while watching the dancing.

You never know, by the end of the afternoon you could be taking to the floor like stately galleons!

Entry is £4 and booking is advisable either by calling the Gathering Place on 01446 700750 or email thegatheringplaces@tathan@gmail.com.

So why not waltz away the afternoon with your friends? The dress code is 'make an effort'!

EJ

## Ogmore Vale school pupils' Olympic event

**CHILDREN** from Ogmore Vale Primary School have been celebrating the Olympic torch relay's visit to Bridgend county borough, with the help of Bridgend Library and Information Service and Halo Leisure.

The pupils visited Ogmore Valley Life Centre where they took part in a variety of Olympic-themed activities, including a triathlon-based race and a special Olympics quiz, and learnt all about what Bridgend County Borough Council libraries have to offer.

There was a lot of excitement as children competed in the

triathlon-based race, which consisted of taking off a wetsuit, putting on a cycle shirt and clipping on a number and cycle helmet, before pedalling 10 times on a stationary bike.

Crystal and Will had the fastest times of the two year-5 classes, taking 28 and 30 seconds respectively.

The children also designed their own Olympic torches which were put on display in the library.

Bridgend County Borough Council libraries have ordered a collection of books to celebrate London 2012.

For more information, visit [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk), or contact: [blis@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:blis@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

**RESULTS for Bridgend Bridge Club are:**

May 30, first Linda Pinnock and Dennis Mottram; second Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes; third John Henson and Geoff Tinkler.

June 1, first John Henson and

Terry Dolan; second Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third Muriel Hanson and Margaret Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm there are lessons on Fridays for beginners with Graham Jones

also at 7pm. Lessons for improvers will resume in the autumn - all welcome.

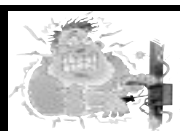
To register an interest contact Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958) or David Newman (01656 649138).





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## Family Notices

### WILLIAMS Morgan Gwyn

Peacefully, on 31 May, in his sleep at St. Baruc's Ward, Barry Hospital, Morgan of Barry, beloved husband of Minty, dearly loved father and father-in-law of Huw and Debbie, Rhys and Claire, Ceri and Rachael, much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon, Funeral Monday June 11th, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Mrs. C. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

### JEAVONS, Jo

It is with great sadness we announce the unexpected death of Jo, peacefully at home, on 26th May, 2012.

Loving wife to Colin, treasured mother and grandmother, who will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral at Barry Crematorium on 12th June, 2012 at 12 noon.

Family flowers only. Donations to MacMillan Nurses, c/o W A Brown, Funeral Directors.

### McALLEN

(nee James)  
Pauline

Devoted sister of Billy, Anne, Rosemary, June, Gill and Jenn, sister-in-law of Sue, Graham, Smudger, Norman, George & Geoff, auntie, great-auntie and great-great-auntie.

Loved by all and will be sadly missed.

### McALLEN, Pauline

The funeral will now take place on Wednesday, June 13th, 2012 at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian at 2pm.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made payable to UHW A6 Spinal Unit Endowment Fund, c/o Anwen Evans, Ward A6 UHW Cardiff.

### TURRELL

Susan Anna (nee Chick)

It is with great sadness the family announce the death of Susan Anna, much loved wife of Chris, loving mother of Melissa, Paula, Carla and Kelly.

A devoted nanny to her ten grandchildren.

Treasured daughter of Maureen, sister of Marianne, niece of Gladys, sister-in-law to Nigel.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, June 11th at 10.30am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Pancreatic Cancer UK, 2nd Floor, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

### Thomas David

Eira, Linda and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for their kindness and support during this emotional time.

Special thanks to Dr Kavanagh for the outstanding medical care and also to the team of District Nurses and staff at Boots of Llantwit Major.

Grateful thanks to John James of Fommon for his professional service.

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### SMITH Annie Mary

(nee Maddocks  
of Stembridge Farm)

Passed away peacefully at home in Ledbury on June 4th aged 99.

Beloved mother, nan, great nan, aunty. She will be greatly missed by all her loving family and many friends.

Funeral at Llandow Church on Thursday 14th June at 12.00pm. Memorial service at Ledbury Parish Church on Friday 15th June at 10.00am.

Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for St Michaels Hospice or RNIB may be sent to R. W. Mann and Son, 51 West Street, Leominster, HR6 8EP.

## Articles For Sale

### Stanley Mirrored Sliding Wardrobe Doors

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# Angela's 'silver jubilee' at school!



PUPILS and staff at Rhws Primary School said a big 'thank you' to Angela Butchart, a long-serving member of staff, for 25 years working with various children in her role as mid-day supervisor and as pupil support.

Angela is a popular member of staff - kind and hard-working - who has helped so many children (and other members of staff!). She received her 25 years service award and a huge bouquet of flowers... Thank you, Angela... here's to your next 25 years at Rhws!

KB

## Murchfield Hall focal point for community



The new officers of the Murchfield Hall management committee.

IT was all change at the Murchfield Community Association AGM when after eight years' service, Coun John Huw Williams stepped down and Coun John Fanshaw was elected chairman.

The retiring chairman was thanked for his dedication to the Association. Coun Williams, however, will not be taking it easy as he will play a leading role in preparing for the return of the Blues rugby team to the Arms Park next season.

Coun Williams said: "During the last eight years, I have seen the hall-use grow and become established as a significant focal meeting place for the community at large."

He paid tribute to the work of former treasurers Dr Joan Andrews and Elizabeth Millard and commented: "We were awarded grants for acoustic screens and new chairs. We financed a new CCTV system along with smaller items such as a microwave oven. The hall continues to be used by over a dozen regular groups."

The finances remained healthy but as always there are challenges ahead, especially considering the cost of

energy. Despite this concern, the management committee has again been able to hold rental costs.

The hall is the base for the Murchfield Youth Centre, offering all sorts of activities ranging from sport and leisure to issue-based workshops. Over 30 young people regularly attend an evening with three staff

to oversee and support them.

The new officers are: Coun John Fanshaw, chairman, Merry Metcalf, treasurer, and Stephen Nottingham, secretary. Committee members include: Sylvia Miles, Coun Keith Hatton, Kevin Davies, Coun Val Hartley and Sharon Burke.

CF

## Alfie top of the Welsh learners!

FORMER Wales rugby captain Gareth Thomas has won the cariad@iaith:love4 language series, after an intense week of lessons and linguistic and physical challenges.

The winner was announced during the final programme, which was broadcast live on S4C on May 31.

Actress Di Botcher, who starred in Belonging, Little Britain and Twin Town, came second.

Alfie topped a public vote on Facebook and there was a tie between both Alfie and Di when the nominations by their fellow celebrity learners were announced.

Among the celebrities

taking part in the series were tenor Wynne Evans, singer and model Lucie Jones, Game of Thrones star Robert Pugh and television presenters Lisa Rogers, Alex Winters and Lucy Owen.

For the past week, the eight took part in daily Welsh lessons, as well as competing in challenges including canoeing, portrait drawing and a game of water polo in coracles.

Last year's cariad@iaith:love4 language winner, actress Melanie Walters, was at the final to present the prize to the winner and to recall her memories of taking part in the 2011 series.

Tutors Nia Parry and Ioan Talfryn had been teaching the celebrity students all week.

## Public Notice

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## Birthdays

### Mary Brookman



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80th  
Birthday

June 9, 2012  
With all our love.  
X X X

### Bethan Maryann Shanklyn



Happy 18th Birthday  
12th June

Love you always, my GEM!

From Nan, Cai, Rich, Becky, Leon, Mike, Donna, Ryan, Ian, Jan, Gareth, Laura, Lily, David and all your friends. Have a brilliant day!

XXXXXX

## Birth Notices

O'Sullivan  
Opticians would  
like to congratulate

### Mrs Bethan McGovern

on the birth of her son,  
FINNBAR, on May 19 2012,  
weighing 8lb 8oz.





# Romilly football youngsters star at Wembley!



ON Saturday May 19, Romilly Primary School football team, representing Cardiff City FC, played Martinshaw Primary School, representing Leicester City FC, at Wembley Stadium in the final of the NPower Kids' Cup.

The youngsters' prize in winning a final place consisted of a tour of Wembley stadium and the honour of the being flag bearers for the West Ham and Blackpool teams in the Championship Play-off final.

It meant the boys walked out as a team to a full capacity stadium.

In a completely one sided game, which ended in a 0-0 draw, Romilly lost the Cup on a penalty shootout.

The game started as it



On the hallowed turf!

finished with Romilly dominating play, having ten shots on target, ensuring that the Leicester goalkeeper was their best player.

The dominance was so visible, that the Romilly goalkeeper only touched the ball once during the full game, which was a goal kick.

The quality of Romilly's 'pass and move' game encamped them in the opponents' half for the majority of

the match and only the dominating performance of the Leicester goalkeeper kept the score at 0-0.

Although they lost the game the boys came out as winners, not only on the field but off it too with their overall behaviour, conduct and attitude over the two days.

They were a credit to Barry, the school and their parents.

Romilly school PE teacher, Mrs Dawn Dobbs, was very proud and said: "I have loved every moment with the boys."

"They have been fantastic on and off the pitch. As a school we will celebrate their success and talk about it for many years to come and I am truly proud to be a part of their achievement."

One proud parent, Scott Hopkins, told THE GEM: "The boys will look back on the day with real pride."

"They were all winners and deserve a lot of credit for the way they handled the whole occasion as ambassadors of Romilly School."

Another parent, Nigel Lee, commented: "We are all immensely proud of the hard work and dedication that the boys have put in to win a place in the Wembley final."

"Even though they lost on penalties, they can hold their heads high, as they were the better team during the game and to achieve what literally is a boyhood dream at such a young age is a reward in itself."

The parents said they wanted to thank Mrs Dobbs for the time, love and care that she has shown to all of the boys, and the amount of hard work that she has put into an unforgettable season for them.

**TOM HARVEY is back - and back with a bang.**

Following six months away from the competitive racing scene last year, the gifted young south Wales speed demon has regained his winning form on the British stage, with a magnificent triumph at Glan Y Gors.

Having graduated from a title-winning Comer Cadet campaign in the national Super 1 Series in 2010 to the more powerful KF3 level in 2011, a variety of issues led to Tom temporarily hanging up his helmet last May in order to take some time out and prepare fully for a transition to the Junior Rotax class in 2012.

Limiting his track time to testing over the summer months, the highly-rated Bonvilton-based hotshot rejoined the cut-and-thrust of active competition in November with KR-Sport - and duly won straight out-of-the-blocks. Cue a return to Super 1 in 2012.

"Junior Rotax is very different to KF3," Tom explains. "It's more competitive, and the driver forms a more significant part of the package."

"In KF3, money is the defining element; in Junior Rotax, it's talent. There are so many drivers in Junior Rotax in Super 1 this year capable of winning races, so the standard is extremely high and the racing

incredibly tough. You need to be absolutely on top of your game if you want to succeed."

After providing tremendous promise, only to find himself unceremoniously shunted off in the 2012 Super 1 curtain-raiser at Whilton Mill, the Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil travelled to Glan Y Gors for round two buoyed by strong prior form there.

Although he had never actually won around the undulating north Wales circuit, he was optimistic about his chances of breaking his duck, but fuel issues cost him almost half-a-second in qualifying - an eternity in such a tightly-contested field - and left him a distant 21st out of the 49 contenders.

From there, Tom gained ground to finish his two heat races respectively eighth and seventh, but it was the following day when he would truly come into his own. Each driver is restricted to just one set of tyres over the weekend, and having deliberately conducted a lot of testing on older rubber the previous summer, when they began to deteriorate, the 14-year-old was suddenly right in the pound seats, and as his rivals grappled around desperately for grip, he mastered the situation effortlessly.

Battling back from an early knock that had left him down in 21st place, he scythed his way up through the pre-final order into ninth at the chequered flag.

Musing that in the light of his sparkling speed the top four might well have been possible but for his opening lap misfortune, the all-important grand final would corroborate his conviction in style.

"We knew we had strong pace, so we were aiming for the top," Tom admits. "I made up four positions on the first lap - three in one go into the same corner - and whilst after that, the drivers ahead were fairly evenly spread-out, I chased down and passed two of them to move up to fourth."

"By that point, Rob Holland in third was a little way in front and lapping quickly, but by retaining my consistency, I eventually reeled him in. Shortly after I had passed him, the two leaders collided. I was able to



TOM HARVEY.

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"By that point, Rob Holland in third was a little way in front and lapping quickly, but by retaining my consistency, I eventually reeled him in. Shortly after I had passed him, the two leaders collided. I was able to

take advantage of that to assume the lead, and although I still had Holland right on my tail and putting me under pressure, I just focussed on keeping my composure.

"For several laps, I could feel him buzzing round my back bumper like a bee, but I made no mistakes and managed to eke out a gap by the end."

"The feeling when I crossed the line to win was amazing; the adrenaline rushes through you all throughout the race, and when the chequered flag comes down, suddenly it's a massive release."

"It was a long, hard race in very hot conditions around a demanding and very physical circuit - Glan Y Gors has 14 corners, meaning you are constantly on-and-off the power and using pretty much every muscle in your body."

Prevailing by 1.5 seconds when the flag fell, the result marked the Vale ace's first national

triumph in more than a year-and-a-half - and a thoroughly well-deserved one at that.

Better yet, it has vaulted Tom spectacularly up the championship table from 43rd after Whilton Mill to fourth on dropped scores, a mere five points shy of the leader - and given his all-conquering form in Cadets, the fact that he is palpably eager for more is ominous for his adversaries.

"The win at Glan Y Gors is already in the history books," he asserts, making a point of thanking KR-Sport, Cowbridge Comprehensive and sponsors RB Supplies, All Print Supplies, Vehicle Integration Products and THR Graphics.

"We're looking forward to the next round now. This result has proved to me that I can beat every single Junior Rotax driver in Britain, and after a difficult year in 2011, the confidence is back." **RA**

## The Cowbridge seconds in an absorbing game

**WITH flags flying, and bunting all around Cowbridge for the Jubilee celebrations, Cowbridge Second XI welcomed Bronwydd to the Athletic ground.**

The weather was unfortunately overcast and there was a threat of rain later in the day; however, the weather did not detract from what was a very enjoyable and absorbing game of cricket.

Cowbridge lost the toss and were invited to bat first. The Cowbridge openers, Chris Ross and Jonty Webb, started brightly and put together a partnership of over 50 for the first wicket. Chris was finally out for a well-made 27 to a sharp catch in the gully to leave Cowbridge at 55 for 1 after 17 overs. Despite this loss the score continued to rise as further partnerships were built with Jonty Webb.

There were useful contributions from Ian Evans (18) and Umar Rafique (12), while Jonty Webb continued to trundle on at the other end. The result off all this was that Cowbridge were able to post 191 for 5 off their 50 overs, with Jonty Webb 80 not out.

The Bronwydd innings got off to a slow start with some tight bowling from John Gilbert and Ali Qasim. John struck first to remove the Bronwydd captain, and with a further quick wicket Bronwydd were 23 for 2 off 10 overs.

At this point,

Cowbridge would have hoped to continue to take wickets, but the Bronwydd batsmen dug in and started to push the score along.

Cowbridge's bowling began to get a little wayward and the score began to rise. Bronwydd reached 130 for 5 off 40 overs and the captain was starting to get concerned, however, the breakthrough came from Umar Rafique, who had the Bronwydd number five caught behind for a well-made 38.

This signalled a flurry of wickets as both Mathew Keating and Ian Evans took a wicket apiece, along with Ali Qasim, who bowled very well throughout the day.

This meant that, with the rain coming down, Bronwydd were tottering on 163 for 9 with five overs to go.

Despite sustained pressure from the bowlers the final wicket eluded Cowbridge, with the game ending in a winning draw for the team.

It was disappointing to have not taken the final wicket, but this was on the whole a good performance.

To have posted 190 was excellent and the fielding, especially from the likes of James Middleton and Rian Thomas, was of a high standard. However, at times Cowbridge let themselves down with some indifferent bowling.

Cowbridge still sit top of the table with hopes of a victory next week against Skewen. **JW**

## West Wales XI in hard fought encounters

**THE Cowbridge West Wales captain visited the home pitch before the match against Dafen, who are second in the league, and having cleared the debris left by irresponsible party goers and dog owners, welcomed Dafen to the school field.**

Even before the match it was being seen by the Dafen captain as a practice session and the reason subsequently became apparent.

Cowbridge scored 183 for 6 (Jon Brazier 44, Rian Thomas 21, Waqir Saadat 42, Richard Owen 35) and hoped that such a score would be hard to match.

With Dafen on 59 for 9 such expectations should have been fulfilled but it transpired that the Dafen numbers ten and eleven were senior players from last year and they put on 127 for the last wicket, losing seven cricket balls in the process. Dafen made the total 9 wickets.

The away match against Morriston on June 2 was a very different matter. Exams are over and player availability much improved. The captain won the

toss and in view of the weather forecast elected to bat. Jon Brazier at number one provided a rock on which to anchor the innings, finally being bowled immediately after the drinks interval when on 18, whilst the other end was occupied by enthusiastic strikers of the ball.

Michael Hordley scored 34. Two new club members, Sean Boga Lake (27) and Jac Davies (13) also scored briskly. George Brown, back in the side after examinations, made 28 and Tom Kamal 20 not out.

At 173 for five from 45 overs the team were optimistic but had the depressing experience of the Dafen match in mind.

The very youthful appearance of the Morriston side was at first encouraging but their openers' excellent technique was not. Michael Hordley bowled tightly, limiting the score to 3.5 an over, and Sean Boga Lake, after one agonising over due to first night nerves, recovered himself in a magnificent way and did just as well.

His arrival will be a great boost to the side. George Brown, who has worked hard on his action, also made an

invaluable input, and was supported energetically by Jack Griffiths.

Fielding was generally tight but Hatim Shami's enthusiasm and commitment was a fine example and, in a neat father and son effort, Richard Owen made a fine stumping from Cai Owen's bowling.

Wickets were hard to come by, however, and drizzling rain started making life difficult for the spinners and the new matting of the artificial pitch very slippery.

The score steadily mounted until with two overs to go (and with four wickets in hand) Morriston needed only 13 runs.

After a mid-field consultation the captain decided that Jon Brazier's individual technique might provide the essential bafflement needed in the next over, and so it proved.

Morriston were then left to make eight from the last over. With two balls to go, they were on 173 themselves, but Sean kept his head and contained the batsman to produce a draw.

It was an exciting and hard fought game in the best atmosphere. The side can be proud of themselves and the score well reflected the match. **DW**

## Team GB 2012 hopeful gets helping hand

**STAFF at Barry-based Harris Pye, have donated almost £1,400 to pay for the training kit of Barry's Team GB boxer Andrew Selby.**

The flyweight champion is friends with Harris Pye trainee manager Nathan O'Brien.

When he heard that Selby had won a place on the Team GB 2012 team, his colleagues Daryn Letton and Andrew Speed, based in Bahrain, donated 1,000 Dirhams from their own wages to help him purchase training kit.

Group Managing Director Mark Prendergast matched their support with a further £1,000 donation from the company.

Andrew is ranked number two in AIBA's world rankings, and has one of the most impressive medal collections in the GB Boxing squad.

He won bronze medals at the 2008 and 2010 European

Championships, and made history in June 2011 by becoming the first Welshman for 86 years to win the final and become European Champion.

By October 2011, Andrew had reached the World Championship final, but was narrowly defeated 13-12 by Russian Misha Aloyan. Many observers felt that Andrew should have been given the title.

Nathan O'Brien commented: "Although Andrew [Speed] and I live and work a long way away from Barry now, we're still in-touch with all our friends, like Andrew Selby, and we're immensely proud of him."

"He's a truly great boxer, and totally deserves to be in Team GB."

"We'll be following all his Olympic fights, and we're proud to have been able to help him with his training kit costs."



# Skating club enters its first competition at Newbury with success



PICTURED: Hannah John, Lara Goodwin, Medi Weston, Phoebe Escott, Kaitlin Daly, Katie Vaughan, Bethan Daly, and Michael Vaughan.

**THE Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club entered its first competition at Newbury recently.**

Eight skaters, two were only eight years old, competed in six of the 24 competitions on the day. The skaters did extremely well in gaining two silver medals and a fourth, fifth and sixth placings.

Lara Goodwin and Phoebe Escott won silver medals, with Kaitlin Daly taking fourth.

In a team event, Lara, Kaitlin and Phoebe took fifth place. Medi Weston

and Hannah John each placed sixth in their events, and Bethan Daly, Katie Vaughan and Michael Vaughan also competed and did well.

A club spokeswoman said: "All the skaters did extremely well and comments were made about their neat footwork and lovely club costumes in black and turquoise."

"We now look forward to our own first club competition on July 7 at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre. Trophies have been kindly donated by both local businesses and private individuals."

# WRU 'little stars' courses set for the Vale to 'teach with fun'

**CHILDREN as young as three can now enjoy a fun introduction to rugby by signing up for the Welsh Rugby Union's 'Little Stars' courses which are being held in Barry, Cowbridge and Penarth.**

Giving youngsters a great start in sport, the new courses focus on the fundamental skills of rugby such as catching, throwing, agility, balance and co-ordination, and everything is taught in a really fun way.

The sessions are held for two different age groups, and for the youngest children (three-four), the sessions are themed with plenty of varied games being played.

For the older kids (five-seven), naturally, a bit more rugby is intro-

duced so that the youngsters can develop their skills and gain more of an understanding of the game.

WRU coach Sophie Wilkinson, who runs the sessions in the Vale, said: "Little Stars is a new exciting way to introduce rugby."

"There is parent involvement in the younger class too, so be prepared!"

"Youngsters are able to join mini rugby clubs once they are six years old, so the older sessions are therefore a bit more advanced, with a bit of tag rugby being played and more of a focus on fundamental rugby skills."

The courses can be found at: St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry: Mondays, 4pm-5pm for ages three-four, and 5pm-6pm for ages five-seven.

Penarth Leisure

Centre: Tuesdays, 4pm-5pm (three-four), and 5pm-6pm (five-seven).

Cowbridge Leisure Centre: Fridays, 4pm-5pm (three-four), and 5pm-6pm (five-seven).

The courses run in six-week blocks during each school term, and cost £30. The next block of courses start from Monday June 11, and all places have to be booked in advance by going online at: <http://camps.wru.co.uk>.

If you have any queries please call Sophie Wilkinson on 07725 200634.



Children as young as three can learn the basic skills of rugby with 'Little Stars'.

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## Wins for two local trainers

**LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams and Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan both saddled winners at different meetings last Wednesday.**

Evan was successful with *Battlecat* at Newton Abbot, and Tim won with *Whatshallwedo* and *Solaris Exhibition* at Sedgefield.

*Battlecat* was ridden by Adam Wedge and both Tim's winners were partnered by Richard Johnson.

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**MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS****308 bridges gap between estate and people carrier**

**YOU** don't want a people carrier and prefer an estate, yet need more seats and practicality?

Then the new Peugeot 308SW might just be of interest. With its third row of seats it can transport seven people in comfort. When there aren't that many passengers, the capacious boot will fit most loads.

A wise use of space makes for great versatility in a car that could also be considered a bit of a sports utility vehicle, without that extra ride height of course.

Inside, you get treated to a panoramic glass roof that pretty much stretches the length of the vehicle. This makes the cabin feel light, airy and spacious.

If shade from the sun is required then an electric blind cures the problem. Rear passengers get privacy glass and door-mounted blinds as well as neat folding trays on the back of the seats.

Comfort and practicality are provided by the leather seats and the driver benefits from theirs being electrically adjustable.

The centre armrest is also adjustable, which is appreciated on long journeys as is the foot rest



ABOVE: THE PEUGEOT 308SW.

for the driver's left foot.

You can't fault the driving position and the responsive 1.6-litre diesel engine is frugal, helped by the smooth and quiet automatic stop start.

I like the traditional handbrake, which I always feel gives the driver much more control than a single switch that so many manufacturers seem to prefer to use these days.

Its six-speed box is decisive if a little clunky and noisy when selecting a gear, but then this adds to the car's character.

Cruise control only operates in fourth gear and above, which means you can't use this function at lower speeds.

Externally the new

308 has received an injection of modernity at its front, giving greater impact (compared to the original model). The test car was finished in white and this added to the overall appeal.

Wing mirrors reminiscent of droopy dog's ears, automatically fold when the car is locked.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The 308SW may look like an ordinary family estate, but it has a trick up its sleeve that makes it one of a kind - an extra row of seats in the back."

"While there are plenty of people carriers and 4x4s able to transport seven passengers there are few manufacturers that offer so many seats in a vehicle of this size,

so the 308SW has obvious attractions.

"As a result, it's a great family car. It's not exciting to drive but with a well-finished cabin and smooth ride, it's a comfortable and safe choice."

The 308 SW has quickly become a member of the family, like your favourite pet, and it is certainly a good alternative to a people mover.

Peugeot 308SW - New price range: £16,115-£22,230.

Allure model: 1.6-litre; 0-60mph: 11.5secs; Top speed: 118mph; Power: 112bhp; Economy: 61mpg; Road tax: £0.

Watch the video at [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).

**SCORPIONS IN TEAM OF THE MONTH**

**TWO** South Wales Scorpions stars, Kevin James and Nathan Mossop, have been named in the Co-operative Championship 1 team of the month for May.

Voted for by the Championship 1 club head coaches, the team was announced in Rugby League World magazine that was released last Friday.

James was selected for the mythical line-up after scoring a try a game in his first three games of professional Rugby League.

The former Neath RFC favourite has been on top form since his recent conversion to the 13-man game and his strength at centre, alongside fellow convert

Tom Morgan, has been an inspiration to the Scorpions.

Mossop has been as solid as ever at hooker, scoring a hat-trick of tries in Scorpions' 32-30 win over Rochdale last month.

Steve Parry, another of the Scorpions' stand-outs throughout May, was unlucky not to make the line-up, coming in second in the scrum-half rankings to Barrow's Liam Campbell, who ended up with the player of the month award for May.

Scorpions' coach Dave Clark said: "I'm delighted that two of our players have been chosen in the Team of the Month."

**Rhose FC under-11s are seeking players**

**RHOOSE FC under-11s are currently on the look-out for new players to join its "friendly team" for the forthcoming season.**

Any player under 11 years of age before September 1, 2012, and is currently a year-5 pupil, is welcome to attend a training session on Friday evenings, 6pm-7pm, at Rhose Recreation Ground (Ceri Road).

For more information contact Paul on 01446 719106.

**Football camps**

**YOUNG** footballers in the Vale can get ready for Euro 2012 by improving their skills on two special football coaching camps that are being held during half term.

Budding Joe Harts can pick up tips between the sticks on a two-day 'No 1 Goalkeeper Camp' on June 4-5 at Parc Bryn-y-Don in Dinas Powys.

The coaching will take place between 9am and 1pm each day and will cover all aspects of goal-keeping. The camp costs £25 for two days, or £15 for an individual day.

Alternatively, if you would like to finish like Van Persie or Ronaldo, then a three day 'No 9 Goalscorer Camp' will teach you about forward play and help you hit the back of the net in style. Qualified coaches will be running the camp between June 6-8, also at Parc Bryn-y-Don in Dinas Powys.

Each day runs from 9am to 1pm, and the camp costs £30 for three days, or £12.50 for each individual day.

To book your child's place on any of the sessions, or to find out more, please call Andy Davies on 07413 360504.

For further ideas of how you can spend an active half term, visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or follow @vale-sportsnews on Twitter.

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Main dealers and other garages use our services because we're able to offer in-depth diagnostic services beyond what they can do in-house. Our electronics testing and ecu lab sets us apart from nearly everyone else. Quite simply we're able to offer you the very best in diagnostics and deliver cutting edge services that most other garages cannot. With the skills and the technical abilities to service and maintain everything from 40 year old Jaguars, cutting edge Porsche's to the latest BMW models we really are the affordable dealer alternative.

The truth is we specialise in vehicle diagnostics and maintenance. Our staff are not jacks of all trades: for example the panel beater only does panel beating; and the valet does the car washing neither does diagnostics which they would have no knowledge of.

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**£24,995**



**05 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.3 CDTi Sport**  
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Cream leather, Montego blue, 1 owner  
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In silver/black leather, 43,000 miles  
**£14,995**



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In burnt orange, air con, 59,000 miles  
**£3,995**



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Black with cream leather, 50,000 miles  
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# GEM sport

## AFTER ALL THE EMOTION, THE REAL TEST LOOMS FOR WALES

**T**EN minutes into an emotion-charged farewell to two retiring Welsh greats at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday, a bright new star burst across the rugby horizon in the slight shape of 19-year-old Harry Robinson, who announced his arrival with a blistering try, racing half the length of the field with not a distinguished Barbarian hand laid on him.

Already hailed as the natural successor to wing wizard Shane Williams (92 caps), who along with the other famous Williams – Martyn (celebrating his 100th cap), and was making a final international bow – the fleet-footed, elusive youngster did enough on his debut to justify the fulsome post-match plaudits that came his way.

Caretaker head coach Robert Howley described him as "Wales' new secret weapon", adding: "Harry is almost Shakespeare in the excitement he creates when he has the ball in hand".

The Barbarians' coach, legendary All Black John Kirwan, who definitely knows a thing or two about wing play, said: "All I could think of was, here we go again! Wales see one wing retire and have another already waiting, to their credit."

For the animated crowd of 57,022, it was

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

clearly an historic occasion to savour and celebrate – from the moment the teams ran onto the field, led by Shane Williams, who was making his swan-song in the famous black and white hoops of the Baa-Baas invitational side.

Everyone cheered him to the echo; likewise peerless openside Martyn Williams, who finally joined the exclusive 100-club when he came on as a substitute for Wales, underlining the faintly surreal mood of a match in which nothing was ostensibly at stake.

Moreover, most of the first choice Wales team were absent – already in Australia preparing for the first of three much sterner Tests against the Wallabies at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.

Nevertheless, it soon became clear that this was not to be the usual sevens-like rugby throw-about in Cardiff, and that both teams were approaching it with serious intent.

For the star-studded, multi-racial Baabaas, of course, it was simply a matter of professional pride, after being humbled by England and scraping a one-point win over the Irish.

For all but five of the 22 Welsh players, it

transpired, the game was a realistic chance to stake their claim for a place in the later Tests Down Under (five players, including in-form Ospreys outside half Dan Biggar, had already been told that they would not be joining the squad in Australia).

For Howley and the rest of the Welsh management, on this occasion the result – rather than performance – was key: "We lost our way in the middle of the game – but we showed character and guts – and winning helps the momentum for Australia," he said candidly.

His relief was understandable, for after rushing into a 13-0 lead through Robinson's corner try, converted by James Hook, who also kicked two penalties, the Welsh defence came under sustained and severe pressure.

It saw All Black pivot Stephen Donald convert his own try and the Barbarians' pack twice being denied on the line, resulting in Welsh prop Rhys Gill being shown the yellow card by referee Alain Rolland (he of RWC semi-final infamy!)

Two minutes before the interval, and still enscorched on the Welsh line, the Baabaas clawed their way to a 14-13 lead when Blues scrumhalf Richie Rees darted through the melee for their second try, converted by

Donald.

Shortly after the changeover, Hook missed a penalty, but almost immediately made amends to regain a two point-lead, which was promptly wiped out by Donald's second touchdown on the hour, which he easily converted, to make it 21-16 in Baabaas' favour.

Hook then showed typical vision and flair to bamboozle the defence and convert the try that put Wales once more in the lead at 23-21.

Almost on fulltime, inimitable Shane Williams tried to spark a last ditch attack, but the move broke down as the man wearing his old No 11 shirt, Aled Brew, intercepted a stray pass in midfield and jubilantly romped over for a try, again converted by Hook, and a final score of Wales 30, Barbarians 21.

So now all eyes turn to the first Test Down Under this weekend, as the Welsh tourists bid to claim a rare Tri-Nations scalp – or three! – in their own backyard. (Scotland pointed the way with their shock 9-6 win on Tuesday).

The task is formidable and history may be against them, but the growing maturity and confidence of this fast-improving young side this time gives real cause for optimism.

One thing for sure is that the whole of Wales will be cheering them on.

## Sevens event

**SOUTH** Wales Police RFC intend to hold the first sevens tournament in memory of Colin Hillman.

It is hoped to have sevens rugby being played by local teams who have great memories of Colin both on and off the field, and turn this event into an annual family day out.

This sevens tournament will be about the enjoyment and taking

part, so enter your squad now – places will be limited and on a first come first serve basis.

The club is also looking for stalls or businesses to support the event – for more information contact 07799 636622.

The organisers are also looking for a local company to sponsor and support this event, so please get in touch.

KM

## 'Bracey' lands a top point-to-point award for services to sport

**MAESTEG-BORN** David Bracey, chairman of Dunraven Windows and founder of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle, near Bridgend, has been awarded The Point-To-Point Racing Company Ltd Jim Mahon Industry Award.

This award, the highest anyone can be awarded for their services to point-to-point and hunter chasing, was created to recognise those people who have made an outstanding contribution to the sport.

Mr Bracey, for some years now, has been sponsoring point-to-points, hunter chases and other races under rules.

The Dunraven Foxhunters Hunter Chase at Ffos Las and the Dunraven

Bowl Hunter Chase at Chepstow are two races that enthusiasts strive to win.

'Bracey', as he is known on racecourses up and down the country, has owned, trained and bred many winners and he has many friends on the Irish horse racing circuit as well.

He said he was very surprised and felt honoured to receive the award and added that it was only the continued support of his wife Dawn and sons Matthew and Andrew that allowed him to pursue his horse breeding and horse racing activities.

His stud is at Llanmilhelgall Farm where the two horses he has standing there are Dr Massini and Bach.

BRIAN LEE

## Cavaliers' teams in a double header

**LLANTWIT MAJOR** Cavaliers gave Second XI debuts to 15-year-old Luke Allison and 13-year-old James Dawes.

Dave Russell lost the toss and was asked to bat first by the Cimla skipper; openers Tom Pritchard (23) and Mark Coldwell (39) put on 75 runs for the first wicket before Tom was run out by Cimla's best fielder on the day.

Dave Russell (37), Pete Lansdown (21 not out) and Neal Pritchard (29 not out) all scored useful runs as the Cavs innings closed on 183 for 5 off 40 overs.

Best bowling performance came from Mark Evans with 2 for 23 off 10 overs.

Cimla replied with 110 for 8 off their 40 overs with Mike Corish (41) top scoring and Mark Evans contributing with 21 before being bowled by James Dawes (five overs, three maidens, one wicket for 10 runs).

Luke Allison bowled three overs, two maidens for one run, and Iestyn took 2 for 17 off five overs including the wicket of top scorer Mike Corish.

Tim Jones (2 for 10) and Neal Pritchard (2 for 15) were also amongst the wickets with Andrew Williams opening the bowling and being very economical with seven overs for 10 runs.

The Cavs First XI came up against up a good batting perform-

ance from the Cimla First XI as they set a target of 241 to win after declaring after 45 overs for the loss of three wickets, thereby giving themselves the 50 overs plus five extra overs from their innings to try and bowl the Cavs out.

Best bowling came from Phil Harris with 2 for 49 off 14 overs, with the Cavs also just bowling one wide ball in the innings.

In reply, the Cavs were bowled out for 167 after 46 overs with Jono Cheal (36), James Snelson (32) and Gareth Hughes (28) providing the majority of the runs for the Cavs. Best bowling came from Imran Pervaz with 4 for 29 off eight overs.

DC

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